

the depôts from privies, which, though connected with the sewers, were not provided with any arrangements for flushing. They cleaned and whitewashed 322 houses—many of them lodging-houses—33 rooms and 1,322 privies; and flushed and purified 3,436 drains. In addition to this work they issued notices under section 318 of the Act, which led to the lime-washing by private individuals of 3,977 dwelling-houses containing 15,867 rooms, 120 stables, 30 coach-houses, 1,576 godowns, 133 cattle-sheds, 437 granaries, 29 bakeries, 16 workshops, 12 warehouses, 49 manufactories and 2,546 privies. Following in the main the headings laid down by the Medical Board for the guidance of the officers who conducted the sanitary survey, the results of Dr. Banks's six months' experience of the conservancy of Calcutta may be stated thus:—

(1) *Overcrowding*.—There was great overcrowding in Wards 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8, where houses of two, three and four stories were inhabited by monthly tenants who are shop-keepers, hawkers, brokers and occasionally pilgrims. The houses were separated by narrow lanes or passages into which all refuse was thrown, and drop privies discharged their contents. One such lane separating two-storied houses in Ward No. 5, 60 feet long by 1½ feet wide, was found closed at both ends and containing a mass of refuse 9 feet high. In another case, a similar lane between three-storied houses, measuring 100 feet by 1' 4", was closed at one end by a privy and at the other by a pukka wall, and was filled with house-refuse, night-soil and other filth. In a third the passage was only nine inches wide, and no mehter could get access to the privy. Houses such as these Dr. Banks considers far more unhealthy than bustees composed of tiled huts. In Wards 2, 5 and 7 it has been ascertained by recent inquiries that 75 per cent. of the surface is occupied by solid blocks of buildings. The road space is 10 per cent., and the remaining 15 per cent. consists of tanks, mostly unwholesome, and of courtyards shut in on all sides by houses.

(2) *Public latrines*.—There were only 50 free latrines for the whole town, each with an average of 20 seats; besides urinals which were invariably used as latrines, urinating going on outside. The number of latrines was absolutely insufficient. Dr. Banks saw crowds of people waiting round them from 6 to 8 A.M. Many of the latrines were badly located at the end of narrow lanes and amidst blocks of high houses. They were not continuously flushed, and were a nuisance to the neighbourhood. The nuisance will be greatly reduced when the supply of unfiltered water is made continuous.

(3) *Private privies*.—The ordinary private privy consists, according to Dr. Banks, of a hole in the floor, about 9 inches in diameter, with a seat about the height of a brick. In the case of ground-floor rooms the night-soil drops usually about three or four feet without any conducting pipe into a vault below, where it is received either in a porous earthenware *gumla* or in a hole in the floor of the vault, from which it is baled out by the mehter. In the case of privies on upper floors there is sometimes a conducting pipe of masonry or Raniganj pottery into the vault, but as often as not there is no pipe. In order to clean these privies the mehters have to crawl on their hands and knees, or even to lie down, in order to get at the *gumlas*, some of which are so large that they cannot be moved, and are never properly cleaned. The vaults are usually quite dark. Ninety per cent. of the urine soaks into the floor or gets into surface-drains. The number of private privies was stated to be 60,970, of which 22,830 are *pukka* of the type described above, and 32,990 *kutchas* with seats and vaults of masonry, walls of bamboos or mats, and roofs of tiles or corrugated iron. Only 5,142 are connected with the sewers and have flushing arrangements. Connected privies were never cleaned except when the connection was reported to be choked. From one such privy in Harrison Road, serving a house occupied by 90 persons, 14 tons of night-soil were removed by the extra staff. Another in Burtola Street was full of night-soil and choked by 50 old shoes. Many similar instances were found. There were 1,996 mehters for unconnected privies, each of whom had on an average to look after 23·2 privies.

(4) *Night-soil depôts*.—A night-soil depôt is described as an enclosed building to which night-soil is brought by the mehters to be disposed of as quickly as possible. It is thrown into pits communicating with the main sewer into which it is washed with as much water as is available. There are 31 depôts

in Calcutta. The night-soil is taken to them in the early morning, buckets being used in the town and carts in the suburban area. The men have to go distances ranging from $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Dr. Banks found that these depôts were greatly complained of by people living in the neighbourhood; suitable sites were most difficult to get, and some of the existing sites were considered by him to be very objectionable. Some of the depôts were in bad repair, and in one the floor is described as being completely broken up.

(5) *Street-cleansing and disposal of house-refuse.*—In their letter of 30th

Appendix No. 10.

November 1876 the Medical Board expressed themselves as satisfied, from evidence which had come before them and from their personal observation, that owing to the neglect of street-cleansing the surface of the roads, lanes and gullies in Calcutta had become polluted to a dangerous extent. Dr. Banks concurred in this view, and considered great portions of the sub-soil to be polluted "by the soakage of privy contents, by promiscuous defecation and urination, by horse-droppings, the discharge of foul water into streets at all hours, house-refuse, cow-shed and stable refuse, and by the fact that the streets are not scraped properly." The reasons assigned by him for this state of things were—

(a) The hours for throwing out rubbish into the streets had been fixed under section 300 of the Act, so as to suit the habits of the people, with the result that the remains of meals, vegetable matter, house-sweepings and trade refuse of every description were "thrown into the streets by the ton daily at all hours of the day."

(b) The cart establishment maintained for removing refuse was insufficient and the system of employing hired carts for this purpose was inefficient.

(c) The platforms on which the refuse is loaded into the trucks of the Municipal Railway for transport to the Salt Lakes were insufficient in number, and so badly constructed that the bullocks and ponies employed were needlessly knocked about, and carts were kept waiting for a long time to discharge their loads.

(6) *Surface drains.*—These drains were said to be badly aligned and out of repair; they were largely used as latrines, and in many instances privies drained into them. In the amalgamated area and the suburbs the surface drains are kutchas. They are described by Surgeon-

* For details see Appendix Nos. 3 and 4.

Captain Pilgrim as "foul beyond description,"* being merely elongated earthen cess-pools into which house sewage flows freely, and it is believed to be absolutely impossible to keep them clean.

(7) *Sanitary condition of compounds and courtyards of houses.*—Dr. Banks's longer experience enabled him to confirm the reports of the special Sanitary officers under this head. Many similar instances are quoted in his reports. In one case twenty-five cart-loads of refuse, including the sweepings of rooms, vegetable matter and night-soil, were removed from the courtyard of a house in Harrison Road. The Conservancy Department had no staff for inspecting compounds and courtyards. There was a house-drainage department under the Engineer, whose duty it was to look after house-drains, gully-pit connections, &c., but they did not report to the Conservancy Department on the condition of courtyards. Defects in such matters only came to notice when Conservancy Inspectors were invited into houses to inspect proposed sites for privies, or when the neighbours complained, or foul liquid overflowed into the streets. The Medical Inspectors (five permanent and six temporary) under the Health Officer occasionally reported sanitary defects when inquiring into cases of cholera, small-pox and other epidemic diseases. Notices were then issued to remove the defects. The owners of insanitary premises did not bring their defects to the notice of the Health Department, but occupiers sometimes did, especially when they wished to have their leases cancelled.

(8) *Wells in courtyards.*—Wells in courtyards are said to be numerous and liable to contamination from their proximity to privies. They were believed both by Dr. Banks and by the Medical Board to be used for drinking when the supply of drinking water is shut off. If the water-supply were constant there would be no hardship in filling up the wells, which in their present condition contribute largely to the high cholera mortality of the town.

(9) *Cowsheds and stables.*—The condition of the cowsheds, especially in the added areas of Wards 1, 3, 4 and 9, is described by Dr. Banks as something terrible, and as really worse than it is represented in the report of the Sanitary officers. In most of them there is not enough standing space for the cattle, and they have to stand with their backs arched in order to keep their hind legs out of the drain. The sheds are purposely built thus so that the excreta of the cows may fall directly into the drain, and the servants may be saved the trouble of cleaning them up from the floor. The cowsheds “simply float in cow’s urine. The Municipality have not anything like enough carts for removing urine. They have altogether 22 iron carts for removing foul liquid. In the whole of the Southern Division there are three. It is the business of the Conservancy Department to remove urine; they are supposed to remove and empty it into the sewers, but instead of doing so they throw it into drains. All the drains around cowsheds in added areas are filled with urine. The cow-dung, in the great majority of cases, is made into cakes and used as fuel.” Most of the cowsheds contained wells, all of which ought to be filled up. The stables, especially those used for hackney carriages, were said to be little better than the cowsheds. Most of the hackney carriage stands in the town were unpaved and could not be properly cleaned.

(10) *Gully-pits.*—There are 6,919 gully-pits in the town. The establishment for cleaning them was insufficient, and in Dr. Banks’s opinion ought to be doubled. It was stated that no carts were provided for removing the contents of gully-pits, and the carts set apart for roads could not be spared for this purpose.

(11) *Establishments.*—Excluding expenditure on the Municipal Railway and the pay of the Health Officer himself, the cost of conservancy in Calcutta during 1896-97 came to Rs. 7,68,818. Dr. Banks considered the menial establishment absolutely inadequate to cope with the work, and remarked that coolies, domes, bhistis and gully-pit boys were too poorly paid to expect honest work from them. Good coolies, he said, could not be got at Rs. 5-8 a month, a rate fixed twenty years ago when food was cheaper. As a result the municipal coolies supplemented their earnings by working for a contractor on the square mile set apart for dumping rubbish, by whom they were paid at the rate of Rs. 7 a month. Dr. Banks proposed accordingly to increase the outdoor staff by 498 coolies, 298 mehters, 136 bhistis, 44 domes and 73 gully-pit boys, and to raise the pay of all these classes except the mehters, who are sufficiently paid. This would involve an extra charge of Rs. 1,20,752; but it seems probable that with better organization and improved supervision so large an increase would not be found necessary.

5. These evils are no new thing in Calcutta. They had for the most part been discovered, although not so fully set forth, by Mr. Beverley’s Commission in 1884; and the fact that they still prevail to the extent described above seems to show that the present constitution of the Municipality is ill-adapted to stand the strain of a grave and sudden emergency, and fails to secure the prompt and continuous executive action which is necessary in view of the fact that the sanitation and conservancy of the great Indian maritime cities has now become a matter of international concern. In point of fact under the present law there is no municipal constitution at all in the proper sense of the word. Everything is fluid and indefinite. The Act vests in the Commissioners all powers, whether they are such as a large deliberative body can properly exercise or not; but it allows the Chairman to exercise all the powers vested in the Commissioners, except those reserved to the Commissioners in meeting, subject to such limitations and conditions as may be imposed, before or after he has acted under this power, by a resolution of the Commissioners. It further confers an unlimited power of controlling the Chairman by the action of Committees. By thus failing clearly to define the powers of the executive, the Act renders it impossible to say as regards any given matter in what part of the

Corporation the executive resides, or indeed whether there is any executive at all. The consequences have been, as has been described above, a complete breakdown of the conservancy of the town at a critical period, and serious confusion in other departments of the municipal administration, without the possibility of determining with any approach to certainty where the responsibility for such a state of things lies.

6. The most favourable account of the Calcutta Municipality is perhaps that given by Sir Henry Harrison in the Bengal Council on 4th February 1888. But even he remarked :—

“The rôle which the elective Commissioners for the native wards have at once assumed is precisely that of checking, watching and controlling in every way, in seeing either that no expenditure is incurred without sufficient reason, or that projects of improvement are not undertaken which cannot be fully justified. They have in fact been the brake-power in the municipal train. But a train cannot progress by brake-power alone, nor can a city thrive by opposition alone. It is also necessary that you should have motive-power, and this is precisely the one point in which the Corporation has been deficient. The motive-power has been too weak, while the opposition power very has been strong. Were time of no importance, I could prove this contention conclusively, but I hope the Council will accept my experience as a matter of testimony rather than desiderate proof. In a body like the Corporation, the executive alone is in a position to push on the work. The Chairman therefore requires that the extremely powerful criticism and opposition which is brought to bear to his proposals should be met by an equally powerful backing up, where a sufficiently good explanation can be given of what is required to be done. Over and over again this has been wanting—the executive government of the Town is working with a minority, and everybody knows what a compromising position that would be. I might go through the budget year by year and show that the Chairman has to make out a very powerful case before he can get sanction for expenditure; and he is thus much handicapped in his proposals for improvement. I cannot put the case more succinctly according to my own view than to say that the motive power in the Corporation has been too weak.

“I welcome cordially an effective opposition, but I equally contend that, if the opposition consists of more than half of the members, then the difficulty of working is greater than it should be. The elective system has been a success as far as that it has organized an effective opposition and check to extravagance. It has failed in so far as that opposition has been numerically too strong. At first its numbers were so large that it brought everything to a deadlock. As it has decreased things have progressed more fairly. Consequently, I am perfectly justified in saying that it is only owing to the fact of the one-third nominated Commissioners having furnished some counterpoise to the preponderance of the opposition that the success of the Corporation has been secured, and it is hardly too much to say that this has been the hinge on which the success of the Corporation has turned.”

Since Sir Henry Harrison's time the power of the Chairman has, it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor, been gradually dwindling, and the interference of the “Committees” been rapidly growing. The “motive-power” has been decreasing, and the “brake-power” becoming too strong.

7. By section 61 the Chairman may exercise all the powers vested by the Act in the Commissioners, save such as are expressly reserved to the Commissioners in meeting. But he cannot act in opposition to, or in contravention of, any orders passed by the Commissioners at a meeting, and if any order already passed by him is brought before a meeting and modified or disapproved, he has to modify or cancel his action accordingly. Under sections 63-64 there comes the General Committee, which deals with Budget and Finance and such other business as may be referred to it by the Corporation or does not lie within the sphere of any other Committee. When the Chairman and the majority of the General Committee concur, and inconvenience is likely to arise from delay, action can be taken in anticipation of the confirmation of a General Meeting, but not otherwise. Under section 65 the Commissioners may appoint any other Committees, either standing or special, and consisting of so many members as they may think fit for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting upon any matter connected with the conservancy or improvement of Calcutta not assigned by the Act or by the vote of the Commissioners in meeting to the General Committee, or for the purpose of advising or aiding the Chairman or Vice-Chairman in the discharge of any portion of the duties exercisable by them under section 61, which, in the discretion of the Commissioners, would be better regulated or managed with the aid of such Committee. The Chairman and the majority of a Committee, if in accord,

have the same power as the General Committee of anticipating the action of a general meeting.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor has enquired in what manner the discretion vested in them by section 65 has been exercised by the Commissioners. Besides two special Committees, one of 14 members, to deal with the question of the amalgamation of the Roads and Conservancy Departments, and a Boundary Committee of 17 members, there were in 1895-96—

- (1) the Bye-laws Committee with 9 members;
- (2) the Loans Committee with 9 members;
- (3) the Hackney Carriage Committee with 6 members.

These subjects do not apparently interest the Commissioners greatly, and the Committees were comparatively small; but as we go on we find—

- (4) the Water-supply Extension Committee with 31 members;
- (5) the Busti and Town Improvement Committee with 38 members;
- (6) the Suburban Improvement Committee with 21 members;
- (7) the Roads, Buildings, Conservancy and Tramways Committee with 48 members;
- (8) the Complaints Committee with 33 members.

9. It may be said that the existence of some, at any rate, of these Committees is necessary for the purpose of considering proposals involving contracts the subject-matter of which exceeds Rs. 1,000 in value, of recommending expenditure, of whatever amount, that is not included in the Budget, and of dealing with matters reserved for the decision of the Commissioners in meeting either by the Act or by sanctioned rules or bye-laws. But the Act itself imposes no such restrictions on the purposes for which Committees may be appointed, and leaves it open to the Commissioners to intervene in any question or class of questions, whether within the legitimate functions of the executive or not. An instance of such intervention is to be found in the formation of the Complaints Committee, which was described by Sir Henry Harrison in 1890 as a thoroughly unsound move, emanating from the wish of the Commissioners to concentrate in their hands all power, instead of merely the legitimate power of administration. He foretold, when the Committee was constituted, that they would find no field for their operations in the direction of bringing to light complaints which had received no attention, but that they would degenerate into a mere appellate tribunal from the orders of responsible municipal officers, after they had enquired into cases. This was precisely what happened. It was very soon found that the Committee took two months to dispose of a single complaint, while such complaints came in at the rate of twenty a day, and hence an order was passed that it should only have jurisdiction in the case of complaints referred to it by the Chairman or by some Commissioner. "The result (said Sir Henry Harrison) has been the creation of an executive appellate tribunal of the worst type. Ordinary persons, who are more likely to need redress, cannot get access to it; it is reserved for a few favoured individuals who have influence enough with some Commissioner to get their case referred to it; that is, for the very persons who would be sure to receive adequate attention independently of any such Committee. Most of the more reasonable and experienced Commissioners fight shy of the Committee, whose operations have consequently fallen into the hands of other and younger men who are, among the whole body of the Commissioners, perhaps the most incompetent to exercise the functions they aspire to."

10. In paragraph 31 of the Annual Report of the Commissioners for 1895-96, it was observed: "In connection with these Committees two important changes were made, viz., practically the appointment to a Committee of every member who cared to serve on it, instead of the number being limited to 24 or 26 as in previous years; and, secondly, a resolution which was passed by the Committee that in future members of the various Standing Committees be appointed for one year only." The pressure of members to be on some of these Committees was so great that in the end every member who desired to be

there had to be let in. A law under which action of this kind is possible obviously fails to discriminate between the true functions of the Corporation as a representative body exercising general and especially financial control, and the duties of their executive in giving effect to the positive provisions of the law in matters of conservancy and practical municipal work. No reasonable being can suppose that an executive hampered by the possibility of interference by any one of a series of multifarious Committees can administer successfully the affairs of a great city.

11. It is true that in May 1896, when it was found that many of the Committee members only attended when they had cases to press in which they were interested, the Commissioners again limited the numbers on the Chief Committees to 24, on the Hackney Carriages and Bye-laws Committees to 9 and on the Loans Committee to 6, but this reform was only carried by 3 votes, 26 members voting for it against 23 who preferred unlimited Committees. Since then the numbers on the chief Committees have been reduced to 18 and those on the minor Committees to 6 or 9.

12. In order to see how the municipal business is actually carried on, the Lieutenant-Governor has read all the proceedings of the Commissioners in meeting, of their General Committee, and of the various Standing and Special Committees from 1894 to 1897. He finds that the Chairman and the Executive generally have far less power than they ought to have; in fact, it may almost be said there are as many Chairmen as there are members of Committee. The Executive has no real head, or rather it is hydra-headed. Matters of the most ordinary description which, under any reasonable system, would be carried out by the Executive under sanction of law, are now-a-days submitted to the Committees for consideration and orders, the Executive evidently finding it useless to move without previous sanction. Even if orders are issued by the Executive under the Act, they are not infrequently brought before one or other of the Committees for revision. A common procedure is that a Sub-Committee is appointed to enquire and report (*i.e.*, to do over again the work of the Executive, whose reports apparently command comparatively little respect). Work is meantime suspended. The Sub-Committee may report in course of time, or it may "lose the papers." Sometimes it keeps the matter pending for months or even years. A more effective device for hampering promptness of executive action could not be invented.

13. No doubt the proceedings show that many items of business are got through at the meetings in a reasonable time. If this were not the case the Corporation would long ago have come altogether to a standstill. It would not, indeed, be difficult to find instances of wasted hours in the proceedings of both the General Meetings and the General Committee; but the Corporation is clearly within its right in discussing fully important matters that come before it in meeting, and the Lieutenant-Governor does not desire to criticise too minutely the manner in which that right is exercised. The drawback is that sometimes matters of trivial moment are made the occasion of long and profitless dispute. Instances, recent instances, of this are in the recollection of all persons familiar with the work of the Municipality. As regards the

General Committee, Sir Henry Harrison described* their meetings in the following terms:—"We have

no set discussions, and we often have separate discussions in each corner of the room going on at the same time because everybody cannot find an opportunity of getting in his word." Sir Henry Harrison was arguing against enlarging the numbers of the General Committee beyond eighteen, of whom he expected twelve or fourteen to attend the meetings—the largest number with which he thought work could be done properly. What would he have said to the numbers since placed on the Subordinate Committees?

It may be doubted whether things have improved since Sir Henry Harrison's time, for Mr. Ritchie, in opposing the proposal to enlarge indefinitely the numbers on the Committees, said in meeting: "Eighteen was the outside number, and from his experience on occasions when there were 24 members the Babel of confusion and the hubbub was such that business was retarded, and only those who had stentorian lungs could make themselves heard." (General meeting of 2nd June 1895.) Again, although the number of the General

* Bengal Council Proceedings for 7th April 1898.

Committee is limited by law to 18, the Commissioners have set aside the law by allowing any Commissioner to attend, speak, and move resolutions on any question affecting the interests of his ward.

14. In his Annual Report for 1894-95, the Health Officer gave a table showing that frequently when the Executive, *i.e.*, the Engineering Department, refused sanction to constructions as opposed to the Building Regulations, the aggrieved parties got the matter put before the Building Committee, and the Executive orders were reversed. The list contains 56 cases, and in 90 per cent. of these the Executive order was set aside. The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that the Commissioners in meeting took exception to the list as giving a one-sided view of their action, but the remarks of the Commissioners themselves on the working of the Building Committee show that private interests are considered to the detriment of the public, and there is nothing in the law as it stands to prevent this being the case.

Thus at the ordinary meeting of 18th July 1895, when the working of the Building Regulations was discussed, Mr. N. N. Ghose said:—

“From a common-sense view the law and the bye-laws seemed enough; but sometimes the ingenuity of lawyers and sometimes the Commissioners themselves who had cases to support had made the rules unworkable. In many cases where they were absolutely plain and unambiguous, they had been twisted so as to make them inoperative and futile.”

The whole of his speech was a powerful indictment of the action of the Commissioners, and especially of the Building Committee. He showed how, by making exceptions to the Regulations on every possible pretext, they had turned the Law and Regulations into waste paper. “If they made concessions in all cases (said Mr. Ghose), they had practically put an end to all law.” Babu Surendranath Banerjee thought the existing rules good enough “if they were worked thoroughly, honestly, and in a consistent spirit without making the frequent exceptions which had been made.”

Babu Kallynath Mitter “maintained that the bye-laws had been violated in the most flagrant manner possible.” It was not a case of difficulty of interpretation, but of misplaced generosity by the members of the Committee. The bye-laws were not ambiguous, but they had been “violated” by the Building Committee.

15. Even inside the Corporation there are to be found some who denounce the amount of talk. At the same meeting as that last referred to, on the motion to introduce the closure, Mr. Simmons said: “He believed in the time of the Justices there were longer speeches but fewer speakers, and the matter was soon threshed out. Now every one who wanted to have his say had it, and there was an immense amount of sheer reiteration.” Mr. Ryland, a much respected Commissioner, said—

“He was not surprised that a new Commissioner should take up a subject like this, and he agreed that the experience of Mr. Apear did not render him sufficiently alive to the waste of time which most undoubtedly took place. The Commissioners like eels had got used to skinning, and they did not so readily complain of the time that was wasted in talking; but outside of this Corporation it was impossible to speak without hearing people talk in most strong language of the utter waste of time which took place, and it must most certainly deter a great many most useful men from taking part in the business of the Corporation. There were many men of business who in other deliberative assemblies took an active part, but who would not come forward as candidates even for the European wards, and their only reason was that it was such a waste of time which they could not afford to lose. In regard to most of the subjects which were discussed the debates were a mere farce, because most of the Commissioners came prepared to give their votes. Canvassing for votes was a common practice which could not be denied.”

16. As a fact the leading Commissioners themselves have on many occasions found fault with the administration of the town. As to the state of the city, at the special meeting of 16th September 1895, Babu N. N. Sen said: “Never was Calcutta in a more insanitary state than it was at present, and that was a fact which was admitted on all hands.”

As to busti improvements, Babu R. C. Pal at the same meeting said: “Busti improvement was one of the greatest necessities of the town; but it was now practically at a standstill. There were many bustis in the Northern Division of the town which were in the same state now as they were ten years ago.” “It was a long-standing complaint that the working of the Conservancy Department was going from bad to worse.”

At the special meeting of 20th September 1895, Babu Joy Govind Law observed that "in recent years nothing had struck him more than the inordinate delay which took place in the initiation and completion of works of improvement. Look at the question of the flooding of certain streets; look at the question of the trenching-ground, which had been under the consideration of the Commissioners for the last four years; look at the time it took to complete the preliminary survey for the drainage of the added area. He did not know what the reason might be; it might be want of establishment; it might be want of energy or want of ability to cope with the difficulties which arose; but whatever the reason might be, the fact remained that there had been uncertainty and delay in the inception and execution of necessary works."

At the meeting of 29th December 1895, Babu N. N. Sen said:—

"He perfectly agreed with what had fallen from Babu Kally Nath Mitter, and he thought the resolutions which had been moved should be adopted without further delay. Much time had been spent in talking, and in the meantime Calcutta was becoming as bad as some of the malarious districts in Bengal. There was now hardly a house in Calcutta which was free from a case of fever, and that was wholly due to the defective drainage of the city. There was a time when Calcutta was depopulated by fever, and it was in consequence of that state of things that the Medical College Hospital (then called the Fever Hospital) was established. He thought the state of things now in Calcutta was no better than it was years ago; therefore, no further time should be lost in discussion, but some practical resolution should be adopted, and he thought the resolutions proposed by Babu Kally Nath Mitter were of a practical character and embodied the sentiments of many members of the Corporation who were of a practical turn of mind. He did not at all agree with the sarcastic remarks made by Dr. Sanders as to the expression of opinion by the Chamber of Commerce; on the contrary, he thought they had done a public service in addressing the Government as they did. He considered their letter to be a very sensible one, and the Commissioners would only be establishing their reputation as talkers if they did not now adopt these resolutions."

17. Examples of the way in which the Committees interfere with the normal action of the Executive are too numerous to be quoted. The Commissioners are satisfied that their interference is proper, and quote with satisfaction instances where the result of their having overruled the Executive proved good. No one imagines that the Commissioners ought not to control the Executive, especially as regards financial questions. No doubt at times they interfere too far even in general meeting, but it is the interference by the Standing Committees with the every-day working of the Act which the Lieutenant-Governor specially condemns. The Chairman has, moreover, as their proceedings show, no proper hold over his subordinate establishments. They are taught to look to the Commissioners as their only masters. They are constantly being hauled up by them and taken to task. At one Committee a member reported that he had individually sent instructions to a Superintendent as to the performance of his duty; yet no one protested against this intolerable interference with the functions of the Chairman.

The General Committee of 14th September 1895 ordered that "privy connections should not be sanctioned in future without the special sanction of the General Committee." True, this was not approved by the Commissioners in meeting, but it shows the policy of the General Committee. At a meeting of the Hackney Carriage Committee, when the illegibility of the paint on the carriage numbers was discussed, it was moved and carried that the Chairman should consult the Commissioners in all matters relating to the administration of the Hackney Carriage Department—(he could not be trusted even to see that a painter did his work),—and this was confirmed by the Commissioners in meeting. On a grant to the Alms-house being discussed, the Chairman was "allowed to take up the question and submit a note." These are only specimens of the way in which work is done; but when the mortality in Ward 22 had frightened the Commissioners, they begged the Chairman to act promptly, Babu B. N. Basu remarking that "when a matter is referred for consideration to a Committee, it often hangs fire for a considerable time."

18. As an example of the way in which sanitary improvements are at times dealt with, I am to quote the following from the proceedings of the ordinary monthly meeting of 11th July 1895:—

The following Resolution passed at the same meeting (of a Committee) having been submitted for confirmation—

(b) That the estimate of Rs. 2,138-10 for laying unfiltered water-pipes for flushing and road-watering in Armenian Street be sanctioned—

Babu Nalin Behary Sircar observed that, on the recommendation of the Health Officer, notices had been served upon the residents of Armenian Street (which was in a very insanitary condition) to connect such of their privies as were not connected, and this work was needed to enable the privies to be connected. Subsequently at a meeting of the General Committee on the 18th May, Mr. J. Ghosal put certain questions with regard to these notices, the result of which was that a resolution was passed to the effect that it was not an occasion for serving notices, no water being available, and the notices were directed to be cancelled. Therefore, the reason for passing this estimate did not now exist, and the speaker accordingly moved that resolution (b) be not confirmed.

Dr. Bhubun Mohan Sircar remarked that the Health Officer on visiting these places found the privies to be in an insanitary condition, and he wanted them to be connected with the sewers, but the Health Officers served notices without knowing whether flushing arrangements existed or not; and on that this estimate was submitted by the Engineer. Unless flushing arrangements were provided, these privies could not be connected.

Babu Priya Nath Malik seconded the motion of Babu Nalin Behary Sircar that resolution (b) be not confirmed.

Babu Nalin Behary Sircar's motion that resolution (b) be not confirmed was put and carried.

That is, the notices had to be cancelled because there was no water for flushing. The proposal to supply the water was negatived because the notices had been withdrawn. So the privies remained as before.

19. There could be no better illustration of the incapacity of the Corporation, as at present constituted, to deal with any administrative matter than the difficulty which the Medical Board and the Government experienced in inducing the Commissioners to appoint a sufficient temporary staff to remove the vast accumulations of filth discovered by the Sanitary officers. On the 25th October 1896, before the reports of these officers had been published, the Commissioners passed the commendable resolution that "a thorough cleansing of the town should be effected as soon as possible by employing a special establishment," consisting of 1 Superintendent, 2 Inspectors, 200 coolies and 60 small carts. This establishment was fixed with reference to the requirements of a single ward, and was quite insufficient to deal with the eight wards in which accumulations of filth had been reported to exist. But although on the 30th November the Medical Board addressed to the Corporation a number of specific recommendations for the cleansing of the city, it was not till the 22nd January, and then under the strongest pressure from the Government and the Board, that they sanctioned a grant of Rs. 30,000 towards a further temporary establishment for cleaning up the town, and even then they entrusted the administration of the grant to a Sub-Committee whose deliberations seriously impeded the action of the responsible executive officers.

20. A striking example of the laxity of administration that is possible under the present Act is furnished by the collection of rates. This subject was reported on at length in my letter of the 19th October 1896. It was there shown that the demands remitted and cancelled during the preceding three years had amounted to Rs. 6,36,330, or an average of Rs. 2,12,077 a year, being 5.26 to 6.17 per cent. of the total demand. Of the sum shown above, bills amounting to Rs. 4,03,280 had been written off for vacancy, error and reduction, and in addition to this, miscellaneous bills representing a demand of Rs. 1,47,004 had been cancelled during the same period. It was explained how, owing to defective arrangements and want of proper supervision, the work of collecting rates in arrear had been left to ill-paid and irresponsible subordinates who had colluded with dishonest rate-payers to defraud the Corporation. In the last paragraph of the letter referred to above, a hope was expressed that the Commissioners might be persuaded to introduce substantial reforms in their system of collecting the rates. On the report of a Committee appointed to consider the question, material changes have since been introduced which the Chairman believes will bring about a great improvement.

21. The Accounts Department of the Corporation is reported to be in an unsatisfactory state both as regards the compilation of the initial accounts and their audit. The officer appointed to be chief accountant has not sufficient experience for the control of a large office, nor is the post adequately paid. The accounts of the Chief Engineer, who is responsible for heavy loan

expenditure, are compiled by an accountant whose pay is Rs. 105, and five clerks on salaries ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50. Serious losses have occurred in the workshop owing to the imperfect control exercised by the Accounts Department. In spite of repeated protests by the Accountant-General, who threatened some time ago to report the matter to Government, but did not carry out his threat, the accounts of the General Store Department at Entally, which issues stores to the value of a lakh every year, had not been made up for three years, and consequently could not be audited at all.

22. A further defect in the working of the present Act is the practical exclusion of European men of business from all share in the municipal government of Calcutta. This is the more serious in the case of a heterogeneous community where the European minority control the commercial interests to which the town owes its existence, and realise very clearly the extent to which the prosperity of those interests depends on the sanitary condition of the town. It is, however, no new thing. The Calcutta merchants, who serve readily and do excellent work on the Port Trust, have always held aloof from municipal affairs. Even in the days of the Justices men of business in Calcutta could not find time to take part in the interminable debates of a large talking body, but were content to leave the affairs of the town to be controlled by the Chairman, whose executive power had not then been whittled away by a standing majority of middle class Hindus. In 1876, when the introduction of the elective system was under consideration, the Select Committee appointed to frame a constitution for the town fully recognised the peculiar character of the community they had to deal with, and the necessity of bringing into their scheme the principle of special aptitude as opposed to that of numerical equality. They proposed that out of the 54 members to be elected, 27 should be Hindus, 9 Muhammadans and 18 Europeans, Eurasians, Armenians, Jews, &c., while of the 18 to be nominated, 9 should be Hindus or Muhammadans and 9 persons of other nationalities. This proposal did not satisfy the non-official Europeans, one of whose representatives in the Council, Mr. Brookes, considered the proportion of Europeans too small for efficiency, and suggested that the number should be raised to 25. The Committee's scheme was rejected, not in consequence of Mr. Brooke's objection, but in deference to the views of Babu Kristo Das Pal, who, while admitting the existence in the city of a varied community with conflicting interests, urged that the system of proportional representation would be inelastic and would prevent Hindus from electing Europeans as their representatives. "It might be said that the larger number of rate-payers being Hindus, they would flood or swamp the Corporation; that was to say, the majority of persons elected would probably be Hindus, and that other sections of the community would be overridden. He did not think that that would be the case. For his own part he thought that the Hindus were well aware that they had to learn a good deal from Europeans, and that in the matter of municipal management they by themselves could not do much. United with Europeans, they could do a great deal, but single-handed the Hindus were too weak. So he did not believe that the result would be in the direction apprehended."

23. In illustration of this aspect of the question I am to invite special attention to the Statements A, B and C annexed to this letter. Statement A illustrates the comparative representation of the chief nationalities in Calcutta as it stood in 1882 under Bengal Act IV of 1876 and in 1895 under the present law. It will be seen that the proportion of Hindus among elected members has declined from 64.6 to 61.6, and on the main body of elected and nominated Commissioners from 52.7 to 52. They still, therefore, have an absolute majority in the Corporation, while on the Town Council they compose 66.6 per cent.—the same proportion as in 1882. In so far, then, as it was the intention of sections 8 and 63 of the Act to reduce this undue preponderance, those provisions appear to have proved futile.

The percentage of Muhammadans has risen on the Corporation from 11.1 to 17.3 and on the General Committee from 10 to 16.6. This result, which is largely due to the Government having, at the instance of the Chairman, nominated six Muhammadans in 1895, is in itself by no means a matter for regret. But the gain of the Muhammadans is more than counterbalanced by the decline in the proportion of Europeans and Eurasians from 31.9 to 26.8

in the Corporation and from 20 per cent. to 5·6 per cent. on the General Committee. A comparison of the figures for Natives (Hindus and Muhammadans) with Europeans, Eurasians, Parsis, Jews and Armenians, brings out even more striking results. The percentage of Natives in the Corporation has risen since 1882 from 63·9 to 69·3, and on the General Committee from 76·6 to 83·8, while the proportion of other nationalities has fallen in the Corporation from 36·1 to 30·1 and on the General Committee from 23·4 to 16·7.

Statement B shows the composition of the Municipality according to profession. Lawyers, who had 21 seats out of 72 in 1882, have 27 seats in 1895, Hindu lawyers having gained 6 seats. The number of land and house-owners has fallen from 17 to 12; while the merchants and traders, admittedly under-represented in 1882, had the same number of seats in 1895 as in 1882, although the commercial interest in the municipal administration has advanced rather than declined during the period.

Statement C is based upon the statistics of the ward elections of 1895. It shows that the registered electors amount to only 2 per cent. of the total population of Calcutta; that the Hindus, who are only 66 per cent. of the population, have 73·8 per cent. of the registered electors and 69·5 per cent. of the voting power; and that Muhammadans, who form 29 per cent. of the population, contribute only 10·5 per cent. of the elector rate, and exercise only 9 per cent. of the voting power. On the other hand, a comparison of Statements A and C brings out that the Hindus with 69·5 per cent. of the voting power secured in 1895 only 61·6 per cent. of the seats, while Europeans with 19·5 per cent. of the voting power got 23·3 per cent. of the elected Commissioners, and the Muhammadans with only 9 per cent. of the aggregate voting power succeeded in electing 13·4 per cent. of the ward members.

24. In whatever way the figures may be combined and analysed, they demonstrate how conspicuously the elective principle has failed to fulfil the expectations held out by Babu Kristo Das Pal, that the Hindu rate-payers would often choose European Commissioners, and therefore that precautions to guard against sections of the community being overriden were unnecessary. They show further how, under the system introduced in 1876, not only do Hindus and Muhammadans command an overwhelming majority, but Hindus alone outnumber all other nationalities on the Corporation, and outnumber them much more decisively on the General Committee. The municipal government of Calcutta has in fact passed into the hands of the educated Hindus. The Europeans, who ought to have a predominant influence in the affairs of the town, cannot be induced to take part in the general meetings of the Commissioners, where they consider time is wasted in debate and where they could not hope to command more than an insignificant minority. They prefer to stand aside and make themselves felt through the Chamber of Commerce, the Jute Association, the Health Society or some other public body which every now and then puts forward some very general proposal with an imperfect knowledge of the facts, and no knowledge at all of the difficulties, financial and administrative, involved in the sanitation of a large Asiatic city. It is one of the greatest evils of the existing state of things that among the various critics of the Corporation those who are most interested in the questions at issue and best able to make themselves heard should at the same time be the worst informed as to the evils that exist, and the least responsible as regards the possible remedies for them. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot blame the merchants and tradesmen of Calcutta for the rôle they have adopted, but it is certainly a matter for regret in the interests of the town that the really influential Europeans among the non-official community should practically cut themselves off from municipal work.

25. The results of the working of the present municipal law in Calcutta may now be summed up as follows:—

- (1) the conservancy of the town has been shown to have broken down in material points;
- (2) the collection of the rates has for a long time been defective, and about two lakhs of revenue have yearly been written off as irrecoverable;
- (3) important branches of the accounts have fallen into confusion;

- (4) the uncertainty as to the respective functions of the Chairman and the Corporation has paralysed the action of the executive;
- (5) the European commercial community is inadequately represented and does not exercise the influence to which it is entitled.

The changes in the constitution by which the Lieutenant-Governor hopes to amend these defects are explained at length below. I am now to state briefly the substance of the more important provisions of the Bill.

PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

26. It is hoped that the Bill may be passed in time to come into force on the 1st April 1899. The sources from which the definitions are drawn are indicated in the margin of the Bill, and no further explanation seems to be necessary.

PART II.—THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES.

27. Although for the reasons stated at length above, the Lieutenant-Governor is clearly of opinion that radical remedies are called for, His Honour does not propose to make any large changes in the actual constitution of the Municipality. He would leave untouched the number of the Commissioners and the methods of electing and appointing them; he does not propose to alter the franchise or to reconstruct the present arrangement of wards. For the last twenty years Calcutta has had an elective Municipality, and there are obvious objections to restricting the operation of the elective principle so far, at any rate, as the main body of the Corporation is concerned. But if the Corporation is to be retained on its present lines it is essential that it should be provided with an efficient executive, and that a small working Committee should be interposed between the Chairman and the main body of the Commissioners. It is equally essential, if the heavy and complicated business of the town is to be carried on smoothly, that the functions of these three authorities—the Corporation, the General Committee, and the Chairman—should be precisely defined and carefully distinguished in the amended Act. The neglect of this precaution in the Act of 1876, and again in that of 1888, has left it open to the majority among the Commissioners to assume administrative duties which no representative assembly in any country has ever dreamt of undertaking, and by meddling in all work, however petty, at every stage of progress, to bring about a state of things which can best be described, in the words of the Hon'ble Mr. Telang of Bombay, as municipal anarchy. The management of a great city such as Calcutta involves questions of far-reaching importance, and without extensive powers of control resting in the hands of the responsible Chairman and of the Government, it is unreasonable to expect good results from any form of municipal administration. The Bill, therefore, abandons the system followed in the previous Acts, of vesting the entire municipal government in the Commissioners, with permission to the Chairman to exercise such powers of the Commissioners, not being expressly reserved to the Commissioners in meeting, as they may not withdraw from him by resolution, and subject to such conditions as they may lay down. It provides for three municipal authorities—the Corporation, the General Committee and the Chairman assisted by the Deputy Chairman, who will act only under the Chairman's orders. All powers conferred by the Bill are distributed among these authorities, with reference to their fitness to exercise them, in the manner shown in detail in Statement D annexed to this letter. To the Corporation are reserved the right of fixing the rates of taxation and all those general functions which can be efficiently performed by a large body representing many conflicting interests, provision being at the same time made against the contingency of their deliberations impeding the transaction of necessary business. Following the Bombay Act the Bill (section 61B) vests the entire executive power in the Chairman to be exercised either independently or subject to the approval or sanction of the Corporation wherever this is expressly so directed. The General Committee stands between the deliberative and the executive authorities, and deals with those matters which by their nature are ill-adapted for discussion by the Corporation, and yet are too important to be left to be disposed of by the Chairman alone. Power is also taken for the General Committee to appoint Sub-Committees

either from their own body or from the general body of the Commissioners on which the Lieutenant-Governor hopes to see all the real workers among the Commissioners utilised.

28. Proceeding on these principles, section 4A enumerates the municipal authorities, while section 4B defines their respective functions and provides for a reference to the Local Government in case of doubt arising. Sections 4 and 7 define the constitution of the Corporation, which will remain unchanged.

29. *Section 7A. The General Committee.*—The scheme for the appointment of the General Committee in equal proportions by (a) the elected Commissioners voting by groups of wards, (b) the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades Association, and the Port Commissioners, (c) the Government, is based on the principle of giving adequate representation on the governing body of the Municipality to the three chief interests in Calcutta—to the European commercial community which has made the town a centre of trade; to the Government which has made it the capital of the Indian Empire; and is responsible to the world at large for its sufficient and progressive municipal administration; and lastly to the residents, house-owners and ground landlords, regarding the last of whom Sir Henry Harrison observed in 1890 that the value of their property had been increased two-hundredfold by the creation and maintenance of Calcutta as a commercial capital. If it be admitted, for the reasons stated at length in paragraphs 21 to 23 above, that the commercial community, and more especially the European section of it, have an unquestionable right to an effective voice in the municipal government of Calcutta, there seems to be no practicable means of enlisting their co-operation but that which is now put forward. Even if the Lieutenant-Governor were prepared to go behind the decision arrived at in 1876, and introduce the principle of proportional representation of nationalities into the election of the main body of the Corporation, it is doubtful whether that would induce the leaders of the mercantile and trading community to take an active part in the debates of a large talking body, where organization and manipulation of votes would be needed to secure any real influence.

30. For the purpose of electing four members of the General Committee under section 7A (2) (a) it is proposed to divide the twenty-five wards into the four following groups or electoral divisions, each of which will elect one member from among the entire body of Municipal Commissioners:—

Name of Group.	Wards comprised in group.	Population.
1	2	3
Northern Division ...	1 to 6	216,556
Central " ...	7 to 11	164,328
Southern " ...	12 to 19	124,059
Suburban " ...	20 to 25	145,419

The above arrangement, which is based upon population, will be convenient for engineering and conservancy purposes and will correspond more closely with the municipal needs of each division and the work to be done, than one framed with reference to area, taxation, or voting power. As each division must be composed of contiguous wards and must be of a manageable area, the scale of population shown in column 3 cannot be made absolutely uniform; but it must be borne in mind that the population of many of the wards in the Southern and Suburban Divisions will tend to increase, while on the other hand it is one of the objects of the proposed legislation to prevent overcrowding and thus reduce population in the Northern and Central Wards.

The four seats reserved to Government will enable it not only to secure adequate representation of its own important interests in the town, but also, if need be, to provide for a Muhammadan member and to nominate at least one Commissioner as the special representative of the humbler working men of all

rank and trades who earn their livelihood in Calcutta. As Sir Sir Henry Harrison observed in 1885:—

"Not only do the labouring classes of Calcutta, important as their interests are, get no representation under the present system, but there are some of them who, by their dependent relation to the Municipality, especially need it,—I mean those classes with whose freedom of action we are compelled, in the interests of the community at large, to interfere. Such are the residents in bustees, whom we have to displace in opening out crowded localities; the carters whom we tax first for using the streets, and then for keeping their cattle within municipal limits (there are 17,000 carts licensed in Calcutta); the *gwallas* whom we are compelled to prosecute in hundreds because they will not comply with our requirements as regards the stabling of their cows, and who ought to be placed under much closer surveillance to prevent disease being conveyed by milk; the *dhobees*, who for the same reason ought also to be brought under sanitary regulations as soon as the Suburbs come into our hands."

The Lieutenant-Governor believes that there will be no difficulty in finding a European or Native Commissioner who will undertake to acquaint himself with the needs and grievances of these classes and to become their representative upon the General Committee. Provision has been made in sections 1 (4), 18D (2) and 21 of the Bill for constituting the first General Committee as soon as the new Act comes into force, and for holding general elections in March 1900, when it is proposed that the body of Commissioners now about to be elected should vacate office.

31. *Sub-Committees.*—Section 63G empowers the General Committee to delegate any of their powers or duties to Sub-Committees nominated by them. The numbers of these Sub-Committees are limited to six, and none of their members need be members of the General Committee. The General Committee is to fix the time within which a Sub-Committee is to report; and all the proceedings of such Committees must be confirmed by the General Committee.

82. *The Chairman and Deputy Chairman.* Sections 7B to 7K and 61B.—As in Bombay, the entire executive is vested in the Chairman subject to such express limitations as are elsewhere laid down. This will do away with the present uncertainty as to the functions of the executive. The power of appointing the Chairman is vested in the Local Government as under the existing law, and the Bill also withdraws from the Commissioners the discretion they have hitherto exercised of fixing the Chairman's salary and house-rent allowance. A Government officer specially selected for this difficult and important post is placed in a wholly false position by the present law which makes him dependent on the good-will of the Commissioners for an addition to his pay which, owing to the great cost of living in Calcutta, is in most cases no more than is required to save him from positive loss while holding the appointment of Chairman.

Provision has also been made in sections 7D, 7E, and 7K for the appointment by Government of a Deputy Chairman who must ordinarily possess engineering and architectural qualifications. The new building regulations will greatly extend the duties of the Chairman, and it is essential for him to have the assistance of a competent adviser to whom he can on occasion delegate his duties.

33. *Elections.* Sections 8E to 19.—In view of certain decisions by the High Court, and of the uncertainty that has been felt as to the interpretation of sections 19—29 of the present Act, it is thought desirable to incorporate in the substantive law definite rules for the procedure in municipal elections, instead of leaving such matters to be dealt with by rule. The draft sections proposed are based for the most part upon sections 19—35 of the Bombay Act, but some important changes have been introduced with reference to recent experience. Section 18A (1) and (2) provides that persons who wish to be enrolled as voters must register their names in the Assessor's office, and must show that they have paid in their own names all rates and taxes due from them for the first two quarters of the municipal year. Section 18A (10) to (21) transfers the duty of revising the list of electors from the Chairman to a revising Magistrate who would be selected from among the Presidency Magistrates.

34. *Control.* Section 38.—The section of the existing Act, conferring certain powers of control upon the Government, is framed in very general terms, and would, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, be difficult to put in force effectively. The conditions requisite to give the Government jurisdiction to intervene are vaguely stated, and it is almost impossible to say what construction should be put upon "complaint made," "general default," and "due enquiry." Each of

these terms would of itself give rise to a controversy in which the Government would be charged with unfairly straining the law to the disadvantage of the Corporation, and this charge would be difficult to rebut.

On the other hand the present law is unfair to the Commissioners in that it gives them no distinct right to show cause against an order, and forces the Government to take the extreme course of at once appointing some person to perform the duty alleged to be neglected, instead of calling upon the Commissioners to perform it themselves within a stated time. The section which the Lieutenant-Governor would propose to substitute is based upon section 64 of the Madras Act, and seems to him to give the Government as ample power of intervention as it need reserve, while at the same time providing for a fair enquiry into the facts, and giving the Corporation sufficient opportunity for stating their view of the matters in dispute. That the Government ought to have an effective power of interference appears to the Lieutenant-Governor to be amply demonstrated by the facts set out in the earlier paragraphs of this letter.

35. *Sections 40-41D. Officers of the Corporation.*—These sections have been framed so as to secure the following objects which experience has shown to be essential to the efficient working of the municipal administration of Calcutta:—

- (1) To withdraw from the patronage of the Corporation the important offices of Engineer-Surveyor, Health Officer, Collector and Assessor, and other offices with a salary of Rs. 500 a month and over. The General Committee, constituted as now proposed, will be more likely to make a good selection than so large and miscellaneous a body as the Corporation, and the scandal that has been caused by the canvassing of rival candidates will be avoided. Sir Henry Harrison observed in 1890— and the remark has never been contradicted—that all the Commissioners well knew that the Municipality “failed most conspicuously in personal questions, when each Commissioner is subjected to private solicitation and unwholesome pressure, and gives his vote under the influence of motives very few of which are consistent with the well being of the city.”
- (2) To vest in the Chairman the selection of suitable persons to fill all offices carrying a salary of less than Rs. 300 a month, together with the power of fining, suspending and dismissing persons so appointed. To quote Sir Henry Harrison again,—“A single officer acting under a sense of responsibility would dispose of these personal questions far more equitably than the Commissioners as a body, where individual responsibility is overlaid by numbers, and the most unblushing solicitation is practised.”
- (3) To enable the Local Government to prescribe the qualifications of candidates for employment in the Health, Conservancy and Engineering Departments.

The title of Vice-Chairman has been changed to Controller of Municipal Accounts, which more correctly expresses the duties which in practice the present Vice-Chairman discharges.

PART IIA.—FINANCE.

36. *Sections 64A to 65G*, relating to loans, reproduce the existing law and further provide for the preparation of the Loans Budget, its consideration by the Corporation and the determination of the sums to be borrowed during the year.

Sections 66 to 66F, dealing with the Municipal funds, are based on the corresponding sections of the Calcutta Act. Sections 68B to 72CC are adapted from the Bombay Act and lay down more fully than is the case in the Calcutta Act the procedure for making payments, investing surplus funds, keeping accounts, preparing and passing the budget and auditing the accounts of the Corporation. Section 72D imposes on the Chairman the duty of remedying defects pointed out by the Auditors.

PART III.—TAXES.

37. *Sections 77 to 86*, dealing with the tax on carriages and animals, contain no material change, except that the executive authority is throughout reserved to the Chairman. The definition of carriage to include bicycles and

tricycles, and the imposition on these of a tax of Rs. 4 a year will, it is believed, add a substantial sum to the income of the Corporation.

Sections 87 to 93 and Schedule III embody the amendments sanctioned in the Home Department letter No. 49, dated the 24th March 1896, and some minor amendments since introduced at the instance of the Corporation. Rules 13 and 13A of the schedule substitute a Sub-Committee of the General Committee for "a Bench consisting of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and not less than three Commissioners" as the alternative appellate authority under the schedule.

In *sections 94-98*, relating to the registration of carts, the only change is the substitution of "Chairman" for "Commissioners."

Sections 99-100 are unchanged.

PART IV.—RATES.

38. Here again the only charge is the transfer of authority in purely executive matters from the Commissioners to the Chairman. No provision has been made in the Bill for levying a police rate, but it is understood that the Government of India reserve the right to deal with the question by legislation, which may take the form either of levying a local rate or of charging a certain sum annually against the Municipal Fund.

PART V.—ASSESSMENT OF BUILDINGS AND LAND.

39. Provisos have been added to section 122 defining more clearly how the annual value of *bustee* land should be determined, and permitting the revaluation of a building, the valuation of which has been reduced on the ground of exceptional circumstances, when such circumstances have ceased to exist. Section 125 of the present Act has also been amplified so as to enable buildings or lands to be revalued under certain circumstances.

PART VI.—COLLECTION OF RATES AND TAXES.

40. The draft provisions contained in this part have been framed so as to adapt the Bombay procedure for collecting municipal dues to the circumstances of Calcutta. They vest all executive functions in the Chairman. Section 142, following section 202 of the Bombay Act, requires municipal dues to be paid direct into the Municipal Office—a system which has been tried with success in some mufassal municipalities in Bengal.

PART VII.—WATER-SUPPLY.

41. Under the present Act the supply of filtered water is intermittent; but the quantity actually pumped exceeds that which the mains were laid to carry, so that the provisions of section 153 with regard to the head of pressure during the hours of supply have ceased to be operative and the pressure varies greatly in different parts of the town. The residents not unnaturally keep their taps continually open, in order to take the fullest advantage of any supply they can get, and the result is that a large proportion of the existing supply runs to waste. This practice, combined with intermittent pumping through constricted mains, causes the pressure to be so low that in a large section of the town, and chiefly at present in the Bara Bazar area, the water does not rise above the ground floors. The Commissioners, therefore, must either incur heavy expenditure in order to enlarge the mains to meet the present scale of wasteful supply and restore the pressure of 30 feet prescribed by section 153 of the Act, or must restrict the supply to reasonable limits by preventing waste. The Bill adopts the latter alternative, but it adds provisions which are greatly to the advantage of the rate-payers. Sections 150-152 provide for a continuous supply so far as may be practicable of both filtered and unfiltered water. The provisions in the present Act for checking waste are contained, first in section 158, which, with Schedule IX, fixes the size of ferrules with reference to the rating of the house supplied, and thus in theory automatically restricts the quantity of water used. On this point the Lieutenant-Governor is advised that the result of using "pea-ferrules" is very harassing to the smaller house-holders, and that it should now be the object of the Corporation to restrict, not the fair use of water, but its abuse. The check on waste by the use of such minute ferrules is also of doubtful value, as even the smallest size of ferrules is capable

of delivering 480 gallons in eight hours, which would greatly exceed the statutory supply. In the revised table of ferrules included in Schedule IX of the Bill, all sizes lower than a quarter inch have therefore been omitted. The concession will be very popular, as the introduction of the small ferrules was vigorously opposed in 1888, when the present Act was before Council.

42. The second check on waste given in the present Act is the power conferred by section 155 of attaching a water-meter to the pipes of individual houses in cases where waste is suspected. This, however, must be at the expense of the Corporation; and as a meter costs from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40, and the number of house connections will probably at no very distant date approximate to 50,000 in the city and suburban areas, it follows that for financial reasons the section is now useless for general purposes, although it might have been of considerable use if it had been applied from the inception of the water-works. The only practicable plan under the conditions which now prevail is to divide the town into blocks for the purposes of water-supply, and to keep a check on the consumption of water in each district by meters applied to the mains and sub-mains which supply the block. The Bill provides for the introduction of this system, which has been worked successfully in a large number of towns in England; and the Chairman is authorized by it to recover the value of the water consumed in each block over and above the statutory allowance by a percentage charge levied rateably in the block on the water-rate bills of connected premises. The existing section 155 is retained for use in particular cases, and by section 155AA individuals who think themselves aggrieved by the levy of an extra water-rate on the district are given the option of claiming a meter for their own houses at a reasonable rate of hire. In other respects the Bill follows closely the system already in force in Calcutta and Bombay.

PART VIII.—REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

43. In connexion with the question of securing the early reporting of deaths from plague, the Lieutenant-Governor has been led to consider the desirability of improving the entire system of registering deaths in Calcutta. Owing to the fact that the registrars and sub-registrars are mere clerks who have no medical knowledge, the entries relating to the cause of death in column 8 of the form in the eleventh schedule of the present Act are in a large proportion of cases wholly untrustworthy. Of the 70 persons who on an average die every day in Calcutta, the returns show that from one-third to one-half have had no medical attendant, and in all these cases the cause of death is more or less a matter of conjecture. The evils of this state of things are obvious, more especially in view of the increasing tendency on the part of foreign nations to restrict privileges in respect of quarantine to vessels coming from ports which can show accurate vital statistics. In order to comply with these requirements, the chapter relating to the registration of births and deaths has been entirely recast in the Bill. The important points are the following:—

- (1) by section 185A no corpse can be removed from a building for burial or cremation without a certificate in the form of amended Schedule XI;
- (2) section 186 requires the relatives and friends of the deceased to procure the certificate;
- (3) section 186A obliges the registrar of the district to give a certificate free of charge;
- (4) section 187 obliges medical men to furnish this certificate of their own motion within 24 hours of the death of any one whom they have attended;
- (5) section 85B makes it penal to bury or burn a corpse without the prescribed certificate;
- (6) section 191B provides that if a corpse is brought to a burial or burning ground without a certificate, it shall be detained there till the friends procure a certificate, or the registrar in charge of the district satisfies himself by enquiry as to the cause of death;

- (7) section 191C prohibits the examination of any corpse in opposition to the wishes of the relatives or friends of the deceased;
- (8) section 191D gives the Local Government power to make rules and to prescribe the qualifications of registrars and sub-registrars;
- (9) section 185AA authorises the Chairman to license medical practitioners.

44. The above scheme seems to the Lieutenant-Governor to be likely to bring about a great improvement in the mortuary statistics of Calcutta, and to prove useful, not only in respect of grave epidemic diseases such as plague, but as a measure of sanitary administration. The only danger to be apprehended is that the poorer classes who do not employ licensed medical practitioners may have difficulty in procuring certificates. This, however, is merely a question of organisation. Section 186A obliges the District Registrar to attend free of charge for the purpose of granting such certificates, and if enough registrars are appointed, no delay should occur. Under section 181 (2) the Local Government has power to determine the number of districts, each of which must have a registrar whose qualifications will be laid down under section 191D. In case of epidemics the Chairman may appoint additional registrars under section 181 (3). The system will no doubt cost more than that now in force; but having regard to the large number of medical men in Calcutta, and the keen competition between them, it seems possible that qualified medical practitioners will be willing to accept the position of District Registrar on a small salary for the sake of the practice which the office will bring with it.

PART IX.—TAKING A CENSUS.

- 45. No material change has been made in this part of the Act.

PART X.—OF STREETS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS.

46. The provisions of this part are based partly upon the report of the Calcutta Building Commission and partly on the London Building Act, 1894, and other English and continental building laws. The subject is a peculiarly difficult one owing to the irregular manner in which buildings have been constructed in Calcutta in past years. The general principle on which the draft proceeds is to lay down rules for new buildings and to provide that existing buildings shall come under those rules when they are re-erected or, at the discretion of the General Committee, when they are materially altered. A special power of dispensation is also given to the Local Government to be exercised on the recommendation of any two of the municipal authorities. Following modern legislation on the continent of Europe, the Bill provides for the reservation of particular streets and quarters of the City for particular kinds of buildings. Government buildings are exempted by section X 90 from all the provisions of this Part.

PART XI.—DRAINAGE.

47. The drainage sections of the Bill are mainly based upon the Bombay Act, the most useful clauses of the Calcutta Act being also incorporated. Of new points, the following are the most important:—

(a) The clauses giving the Local Government considerable power of control over the outfall of the sewage system, especially with reference to any alteration in the outfall works made necessary by the decay of river channels—a possible but at present remote contingency attaching to all outfalls into the network of tidal creeks which intersect the Salt Water Lakes. These provisions embody the orders issued on the outfall works now under construction, which were passed under section 274 of the Calcutta Act.

(b) Care has been taken in drafting the Bill to emphasise the rights of the rate-payers, as well as the duties and responsibilities of the Corporation with regard to drainage matters.

(c) By sections 296EE to 296MM it is proposed to substitute an unpaid agency of licensed plumbers working at rates approved by the Corporation for the present insufficient staff of drainage inspectors appointed by the Corporation. The number of house-connections now amounts to nearly 30,000, which is likely to increase, and it is found practically impossible at reasonable cost for

the Corporation to do more than exercise a general control over house fittings or to accept responsibility for the repair and maintenance of these fittings with all the contingencies of occasional stoppages from misuse. The Bill, therefore, provides an agency, of which the public must avail themselves, to carry out house drainage works at reasonable rates, and the Corporation is bound to exercise proper control over this agency, and to punish breaches of the laws and bye-laws in cases where house fittings are not properly maintained.

PART XIB.—LIGHTING OF STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES.

48. Under this head the Calcutta Act (sections 296 and 297) is singularly meagre, and the provisions in the Bill are accordingly modelled upon sections 330-335 of the Bombay Act.

PART XII.—SANITARY PROVISIONS.

49. This part of the Bill is based mainly on Chapter XV of the Bombay Act, which is in many respects more effective than the corresponding sections of the Calcutta Act. Those provisions of the latter Act which have been found to work well have, however, also been included.

PART XIII.—BYE-LAWS.

50. The framing of suitable bye-laws is a duty which large bodies such as the present Corporation have shown themselves ill-fitted to perform. The procedure proposed in the Bill seems to the Lieutenant-Governor well adapted for its purpose. It will give both the public and the Corporation ample opportunity of expressing their views and will leave the final decision to the Local Government.

PART XIV.—PENALTIES.

51. The scheme of this part is borrowed from the Bombay Act.

PART XV.—PROCEDURE.

52. This part also has been adapted from the Bombay Act. Power has been taken to appoint Special Magistrates for the trial of offences against the Act, as experience has shown that the Honorary Magistrates, before whom a large proportion of municipal cases come, are dilatory in their procedure and impose merely nominal penalties. Provisions have also been introduced for the purpose of securing the more active co-operation of the police in the administration of the law.

PART XVI.—ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF LAND AND BUILDINGS.

53. The provisions of this Part, which are based upon the recommendations of the Calcutta Building Commission, modify the Land Acquisition Act in respect of some material points, which will require sanction under section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

PART XVII.—SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.

54. *Sections 524 to 526. Extension to Howrah.*—The report by the Civil Surgeon, dated 25th January, to the Medical Board, and other evidence that has come before the Lieutenant-Governor, place it beyond question that the sanitary condition of Howrah is in its way quite as deplorable as that of Calcutta. Although the town as a whole is not overcrowded, some of the bustees in it furnish examples of the worst forms of overcrowding. The number of public latrines is insufficient; the 26,000 private latrines, both *kutchas* and *puckas*, are as bad as those of Calcutta ever were, and the staff of sweepers is too small to clean them properly. Besides the privies, there are in Howrah about 2,500 cesspools which receive sullage and urine. It is believed that only one-eighth of this liquid sewage is removed by the sullage carts, and that the remainder sinks into the soil, drains into tanks and road-side channels or disappears by evaporation. The drainage of the town is at present effected by about 3 miles of *pucka* and 80 miles of *kutchas* drains, most of them badly aligned and faultily constructed. A regular system of sewerage and drainage is greatly wanted,

but the difficulty of finding a suitable outfall is extreme, and the Municipality is not at present in a position to borrow the amount, roughly estimated at about 25 lakhs, which a suitable drainage scheme would cost. A supply of filtered water was introduced last year, and is said to have already greatly reduced the mortality from cholera, but it must be materially extended before its full benefit can be felt. Effective building regulations are greatly needed, particularly in the bustees, where the large and increasing population of mill hands finds lodgings. The stables and cowsheds throughout the town are in a terribly insanitary condition, and are reported to be the most fertile source of surface pollution. The municipal law in force in Howrah is the Bengal Municipal Act of 1884, which is altogether inadequate to meet the wants of the town, and contains no provisions whatever for preventing the spread of dangerous diseases. The Lieutenant-Governor was at first disposed to recommend that a special Act should be passed for Howrah, possibly on the lines of the Bill which is understood to be contemplated for Rangoon; but on further consideration he is of opinion that the better plan will be to take power to extend to Howrah by notification any specified portion of the Calcutta Act, subject to such restrictions and modifications as the Local Government may think fit. From the sanitary point of view, Howrah is virtually a suburb of Calcutta; its population in 1891 was 116,606, representing an increase of 28·4 per cent. on the population recorded in 1881; it is the head-quarters of the East Indian Railway, and contains a large number of factories which attract operatives from the neighbouring districts; and any outbreak of disease in Howrah would almost certainly spread to Calcutta. Owing to the constant intercourse between the two towns, the people of Howrah are familiar with the system of taxation and municipal administration that is in force in Calcutta, and it would be simpler and easier to extend portions of the Calcutta Act from time to time, in accordance with the growing needs of Howrah, than to enact a special statute for the latter town. The Bill provides for notice being given of the intention to extend any portions of the Act and for the hearing of objections.

PART XVIII.—RAILWAYS.

55. This part merely reproduces the corresponding provisions of the present law.

56. Some formal work still remains to be done in harmonising the provisions of the Bill throughout, renumbering the sections in a consecutive series, checking cross references, grouping provisions, and revising the division into Parts and Chapters. This is now in progress, and will be completed before the Bill is introduced.

57. I am now to request that the Government of India may be moved to intimate its formal approval of the Bill at a very early date, reserving for communication later on such detailed criticisms as may be found to be called for. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes to invite the fullest discussion of the measure, and proposes to publish it under Rule 34 of the Council Rules as soon as it has been approved by the Government of India. The Bill will then be introduced into Council and referred at once to a Select Committee, which can proceed to consider its constitutional provisions while the opinions of the Corporation and the leading Associations are being invited on the measure as a whole.

58. I am further to request that the sanction of the Governor-General may be given under section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, to the Bill being proceeded with, since it affects certain Acts passed by the Supreme Council.

A.
Statement showing the composition of the Municipal body of Calcutta in 1883 and 1895, according to nationalities.

	IN CORPORATION OF 71, 1883.						IN TOWN COUNCIL OF 30, 1892.						IN GENERAL COMMITTEE OF 18, 1894.						REMARKS.						
	Elected.			Nominated.			Elected.			Nominated.			Elected.			Nominated.									
	Number.	Per cent. of	Total.	Number.	Per cent. of	Total.	Number.	Per cent. of	Total.	Number.	Per cent. of	Total.	Number.	Per cent. of	Total.	Number.	Per cent. of	Total.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
(a) { Hindus ... Muhammedans ... Europeans and Europeans ...	21	66.0	7	20.1	20	58.7	27	61.0	2	18.3	20	58.0	15	75.0	5	50.0	20	66.6	9	75	3	50	15	66.6	...
	5	10.4	3	12.5	8	11.1	8	12.4	5	25.3	13	17.3	3	10.0	1	10.0	3	10.0	2	16.7	1	16.6	3	16.6	...
	13	25	11	45.0	22	31.9	14	22.3	6	40.0	20	26.3	3	18.0	3	30.0	6	30.0	...	...	1	16.6	1	5.6	...
(b) { Parsis ... Jews... Armenians ...	...	...	1	4.3	1	1.4	...	...	1	6.6	1	1.3	...	...	1	10.0	1	3.4	...	...	1	16.6	1	3.6	...
	...	...	2	8.3	3	3.8	...	...	1	6.6	1	1.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1.7	...	...	1	1.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8.3	...	...	1	3.6	...
Total ...	45	100	24	100	73	100	60	100	15	100	75	100	50	100	10	100	30	100	23	100	6	100	18	100	...
(a) Native ...	20	75	10	41.7	46	63.9	45	75	7	46.6	28	60.3	17	85	6	60	25	76.6	11	51.6	4	66.6	15	83.3	...
(b) Others ...	13	25	14	58.3	26	36.1	15	25	8	53.4	23	30.7	3	15	4	40	7	23.4	1	8.4	2	33.4	3	16.7	...

B.

Statement showing the composition of the Municipal body of Calcutta according to Trades and Professions.

	Lawyers.		Doctors.		Engineers.		Public service.		Land and house owners.		Merchants and traders.		Others.		Total.		REMARKS.
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	
1	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Elected.</i>																	
Hindus	11	17	3	3	2	3	...	...	9	3	5	7	2	1	31	37	
Musalmans	3	3	...	3	...	...	1	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	5	3	
Others	4	4	...	1	...	...	6	3	...	...	3	4	...	4	13	15	
Total	18	24	3	5	1	3	7	5	10	9	7	11	2	5	49	55	
<i>Nominated.</i>																	
Hindus	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	7	3	
Musalmans	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	1	...	3	5	
Others	1	3	1	3	1	...	4	3	3	1	5	1	...	...	14	3	
Total	3	6	1	3	1	...	6	3	7	3	6	1	1	...	24	11	
GRAND TOTAL	21	30	4	7	2	3	13	10	17	12	13	12	3	5	73	66	

C.
Statement showing the number of Electors in Calcutta and the voting power possessed by them in 1895.

NUMBER AND NAME OF WARD.	Total population.	HINDUS.					EUROPEANS.					MUHAMMADANS.					PARSIS, JEWS AND OTHERS.					TOTAL VOTING POWER.			
		3	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Per cent. of voting power.	Number of voters.	Per cent. of voters.	Voting power.	Per cent. of voting power.	Number of voters.	Per cent. of voters.	Voting power.	Per cent. of voting power.	Number of voters.	Per cent. of voters.		Voting power.	Per cent. of voting power.	
1. Shampooker	4,524	443		443	90.3	1,833	99.0																		1,990
2. Coomartooly	28,961	725		718	78.7	3,302	98.5	8	1.1	53	1.6	1		2											2,419
3. Burtollah	8,057	517		508	97.2	2,051	96.6	2	.4	24	1.1	13		46											2,133
4. Sake's Street	25,374	752		734	96.3	3,458	94.1	11	1.2	104	3.9	17		49											2,611
5. Jorabagan	28,750	734		741	98.3	4,199	98.4	5	.7	88	.6	7		35											4,195
6. Jorabagan	41,657	875		857	97.9	3,493	97.9	11	1.2	88	2.3	135		21											3,598
7. Burtollah	21,645	1,044		1,078	90.3	2,698	70.4	160	8.1	1,151	14.3	186		113											8,088
8. Colloobah	50,781	1,031		1,059	63.2	2,783	63.9	135	15.0	635	15.4	230		313											4,232
9. Moorabpara	10,383	747		609	61.5	2,359	63.3	46	6.1	147	5.2	92		324											2,600
10. Barbazar	39,100	492		292	59.3	1,231	61.3	118	24.0	488	24.5	62		184											1,932
11. Poddipooker	27,761	591		485	82.0	1,901	82.9	99	16.7	593	16.0	8		19											2,593
12. Watollah Street	6,953	271		70	25.8	456	24.5	135	63.2	1,343	70.1	3		170											1,438
13. Pankajabazar	25,326	784		341	43.5	1,437	45.9	248	30.6	1,101	33.8	181		574											2,548
14. Taltollah	23,367	629		597	32.9	1,620	27.9	212	33.7	913	33.4	109		779											2,548
15. Colloobah	13,218	93		93	23.1	408	20.9	307	49.3	1,111	57.1	109		357											1,713
16. Park Street	4,940	240		39	16.2	321	18.7	147	61.2	1,246	72.3	1		82											1,713
17. Baman Butee	4,959	119		26	21.8	321	19.7	85	69.7	667	72.3	1		54											1,713
18. Burtollah	33,147	4,959		13	18.5	45	17.2	55	78.5	313	61.2	5		3											801
19. Barbazar	33,950	343		204	53.2	791	53.2	124	32.3	520	31.3	51		170											1,511
20. Burtollah	22,851	270		128	43.7	243	43.1	65	22.3	210	22.6	81		250											735
21. Burtollah	22,851	600		510	30.0	508	44.8	72	27.0	464	25.3	68		317											1,783
22. Baman Butee	11,340	197		133	77.6	2,007	80.3	35	4.1	186	6.0	35		103											2,246
23. Baman Butee	11,340	116		84	46.5	458	20.8	19	9.6	186	19.8	26		64											683
24. Kaddipore	26,833	565		205	77.3	743	73.4	35	30.1	1,117	30.4	31		91											384
25. Waingunge	64,401	13,412		9,745	75.3	39,669	69.5	2,077	15.4	11,151	19.5	1,413		5,080											1,014
Total																									57,052

No. 142, dated Calcutta, the 16th March 1898.

From—J. P. HEWITT, Esq., C.I.E., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Dept.,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 40, dated the 10th instant, conveying the approval of the Governor-General in Council to the publication under Rule 84 of the Rules of the Bengal Legislative Council of the draft Bill submitted with your letter No. 1233M., dated the 7th instant, to amend the law relating to the Municipal affairs of the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and to authorize its extension to Howrah, I am directed to say that His Excellency in Council sanctions the introduction of the Bill in the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor for the purpose of making laws and regulations. I am accordingly to convey the sanction of the Governor-General in Council required by section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, and to say that His Excellency in Council has no objection to the penal clauses in the Bill.

2. The Governor-General in Council has carefully considered the reports regarding the appalling state of affairs brought to light by the Medical Board, which was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in October 1896, and by the six Sanitary Officers deputed by the Board to make a sanitary survey of the Town proper and the added area, and in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, they demonstrate the necessity for reform in the present Municipal law. This state of affairs is, in the language of the Medical Board, a standing menace to the health of the city and may seriously affect the commercial relations of the port with foreign countries. It is calculated in the case of an epidemic to endanger many thousands of lives. That there are defects in the constitution of the Municipality which have prevented the proper sanitation of the city will be admitted, the Government of India venture to believe, by most of the Commissioners themselves; but the Commissioners are not responsible for these defects, and it is to be hoped that they will appreciate and give their best assistance in furthering the endeavours which are being made to apply a remedy for the existing state of things. The amendment of provisions which have been found to be unworkable is most conducive to the real advancement of Municipal Government, and the Governor-General in Council trusts that the changes to be effected in the law will be found to be reforms leading to the better administration of the Municipal Corporation of the metropolis.

3. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has come to the conclusion that the first step necessary is to revise the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act, 1888, throughout so as in the first place to provide for a responsible Municipal Executive, and in the next place to furnish this executive with a law adequate to the sanitary requirements of the present day and the condition of Calcutta as it now is. The Lieutenant-Governor does not propose to make any large changes in the actual constitution of the Municipality. He wishes to leave untouched the number of the Commissioners and the methods of electing and appointing them. He does not propose to alter the franchise or to reconstruct the present arrangement of wards. But he considers it essential that the Corporation should be provided with an efficient executive, and that a small working committee should be interposed between the Chairman and the main body of the Commissioners. It is, in Sir Alexander Mackenzie's opinion, equally essential, if the heavy and complicated business of the city is to be carried on smoothly, that the functions of these three authorities—the Corporation, the General Committee and the Chairman—should be precisely defined and carefully distinguished in the amended Act. It is, His Honour points out, the absence of such definition which has brought the Municipal administration in Calcutta almost to a standstill. His Honour is accordingly satisfied that the time has come to undertake the re-construction of the Calcutta Municipal Act, which in many instances is imperfectly drafted, as has been frequently shown in the Courts, on the lines of the Bombay Municipal Act, so far as these are applicable to the conditions of Calcutta. The draft Bill has been framed to give effect to His Honour's recommendations.

4. Sir Alexander Mackenzie presses upon the Government of India the vital importance of the constitutional clauses of the Bill. The threatened

approach of plague has, it is urged, thrown into strong relief not only the commercial and international consequences of shortcomings in the conservancy of Calcutta, the need of a proper drainage system, an increased water-supply, and a well organized Health Department, but also the necessity for taking effective measures to reduce the overcrowding of certain quarters of the city, the condition of which is such that if plague once found a footing there it might take years to eradicate it. For the effectual working out of these all-important reforms His Honour considers it essential that the powers of the General Committee and of the Chairman should be defined as have been proposed in the Bill. It is said that the sections defining these powers have received His Honour's most careful consideration, and that the success of the Bill hinges entirely upon them.

5. The Bill is of a most important character and introduces wide and far-reaching changes in the law under which the Municipal affairs of Calcutta are at present managed; and after giving anxious consideration to them, the Government of India have determined to give their general approval to Sir A. Mackenzie's proposals. The proposal to revise the law has also received the approval of the Secretary of State. The Governor-General in Council observes with satisfaction that the Lieutenant-Governor is inviting the fullest discussion of the measure, and is assured that His Honour will carry out the proposed legislation in as conciliatory a manner as possible. His Excellency in Council does not propose at the present stage to examine the details of the Bill, but he will watch with interest the discussion of the measure by the Select Committee and the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor, and feels confident that the views of the Corporation and the leading Associations, which are being invited by the Lieutenant-Governor, will receive careful and attentive consideration at their hands.

RESOLUTION ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPIUM
DEPARTMENT FOR 1896-97.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—OPIUM.

Calcutta, the 21st March 1898.

RESOLUTION No. 1231.

READ—

The Report on the Administration of the Opium Department for the year 1896-97 (1st September 1896 to 31st August 1897).

The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to notice that the Board's report was again this year; received by Government on the due date (1st February).

Introductory.
2. The climatic conditions of the season were most unfavourable in both Agencies. The early cessation of the rain in 1896 was detrimental to the plants in the Bihar Agency, and the rain in February brought on blight, which is always liable to attack a backward crop. Except where irrigation was possible, the cultivation suffered severely. In the Benares Agency the prospects up to the collection of the drug were more favourable, but blight, together with the intense heat and high west winds in April and May, did great damage.

3. In paragraph 2 of the Government Resolution on the Opium Administration Report for 1895-96, the attention of the Board was invited to the orders of the Government of India laying down the principle to be followed in future in determining the extent of poppy cultivation, and directing that the area of cultivation should, as far as possible, be fixed so as to produce 54,000 chests of provision opium annually in addition to 7,000 or 8,000 maunds of excise opium of 90° consistence. The results of the year show that the efforts to regulate the settlements in accordance with the policy of the Government of India were not altogether attended with success. The actual outturn of the two Agencies during both the seasons (1895-96 and 1896-97) was considerably below the normal requirements. With regard to the season 1895-96 the Board report that the reason why the actual outturn fell so far below the expectation of Government, was that the average yield per bigha of the Bihar and Benares Agencies during that season was only 3 seers 15 chitaks and 4 seers 6½ chitaks, respectively, as compared with the average for the 22 years, from 1873-74 to 1894-95, of 4 seers 2½ chitaks for Bihar and 4 seers 15½ chitaks for Benares, upon which the Government of India had based their estimate of normal requirements. In the season 1896-97, while the continued decrease in the area under cultivation in Bihar was compensated for by an increase in cultivation in Benares, the average yield per bigha in both Agencies under the influence of the unfavourable seasons showed a worse result than even in the preceding year.

4. The following statement shows the area engaged for, the area sown, the net cultivation, and the produce in each Agency in the three seasons 1894-95, 1895-96 and 1896-97:—

SEASON.	Area engaged for.	Area sown, including failures.	Net cultivation, excluding failures.	Produce at 70° consistence.	Number of chests of provision opium actually manufactured.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bighas.	Bighas.	Bighas.	Maunds.	Chests.
Bihar—					
1894-95	348,616	342,311	370,342	23,100	10,630
1895-96	342,307	374,024	355,973	26,107	22,741
1896-97	372,713	350,035	323,191	31,570	23,000
Benares—					
1894-95	406,663	461,888	440,668	24,040	17,415
1895-96	535,049	546,626	475,451	52,174	22,700
1896-97	576,532	601,312	570,900	63,604	23,500

NOTE.—Out of the quantities shown in column 6 under Benares Agency, the following quantities were transferred to Patna to equalise, as far as possible, the number of chests of provision opium manufactured in each Agency:—

	Mds.
1894-95	9,690
1895-96	9,344
1896-97	10,607

In the Bihar Agency there was a decrease in the area of land engaged for, and land sown, including failures, as well as in the net cultivation, excluding failures, to the extent of 9,884 bighas, 19,059 bighas and 27,781 bighas respectively, with a resulting decrease in the total produce, amounting to 3,529 maunds. The decrease occurred in the sub-agencies of Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Aliganj, Motihari, Bettiah and Gaya. The largest decrease, amounting to nearly 7,000 bighas, occurred in Hajipur. It is explained that most of the land struck out in Hajipur being unirrigated, was not accepted in consequence of the difficulties that were anticipated from the severe drought that prevailed during the year, while the decrease in irrigated land is chiefly attributed to the previous existence of a large area of paper cultivation. The subject of paper cultivation was mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Government Resolution on the Opium Administration Report of last year. The Board report that the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Hajipur, Mr. A. Christian, has been at great pains to ascertain the cause of the discreditable state of affairs that has existed for some years past in this sub-agency, and promise a report to Government in due course, which will be awaited. The decrease in Aliganj was due to the introduction of Mr. Tytler's alternative *assamiwar* scheme in that sub-agency from the 1st September 1896, in consequence of which advances were only given to solvent raiyats after the closest scrutiny. The decrease in Bettiah was due to the rejection of useless lands and to the fact that, owing to a series of bad years, the cultivators were unwilling to increase their cultivation. The general decline of poppy cultivation in Bihar is reported to be more or less due to the disinclination on the part of the raiyats to cultivate more land with opium. This persistent decline in the area of cultivation in Bihar has already engaged the special attention of Government and was commented on in the Resolutions on the Reports of the last two years, when the effects of competition between opium and more paying crops were discussed. In last year's Report, the Agent was of opinion that a good season would soon restore the popularity of opium; but the conditions of the recent season were unfortunately not such as to test the accuracy of this belief. The average yield per bigha in the Bihar Agency during the past year was 3 seers 13½ chitaks only, against 3 seers 15 chitaks in 1895-96. In the Benares Agency there was an increase of 43,533 bighas, 55,688 bighas and 95,518 bighas, respectively, in the area of land engaged for, land sown, including failures, and the net cultivation, excluding failures, as well as an increase in the total produce of 1,420 maunds, as compared with the figures of the previous year. There was an increase in cultivation in nearly all the sub-agencies. The area of land engaged for was 578,582 bighas, but the land actually sown, according to measurements, was 601,312 bighas. The excess area was entirely due to the necessitous condition of the cultivators, and was allowed in the hope of getting a crop sufficient to meet requirements, and, if possible, to recoup the reserve. Many men came in to get the advances who had never sown before, and many voluntarily sowed in excess of their engagements or without advances at all. The average outturn per bigha fell from 4 seers 6½ chitaks to 3 seers 12 chitaks during the year, which was the inevitable effect of the unpropitious season, but the Lieutenant-Governor considers that both Mr. Wright and the officers of his Agency deserve great credit for the generally successful results of their operations. As long as the area sown in Bihar is short, and the total outturn of opium in both Agencies is not more than sufficient to meet the normal quantity required, the Lieutenant Governor sees no objection to the extension of cultivation within the limits indicated in the Benares Agency. The willingness of cultivators there to sow more land under opium points to the conclusion that the competition of other crops with opium is not so keen as in Bihar.

5. The results of check measurements made by gazetted officers still show great variations in different sub-agencies in the numbers of cases detected in which opium had not been grown. In paragraph 3 of the Government Resolution on the Administration Report of the Opium Department for the year 1895-96, the Board were requested to consider how far the new survey maps and records could be utilized for the purpose of facilitating the settlements and checking the measurements of opium lands. It is reported that experiments are being made in selected tracts of the Muzaffarpur and Aliganj sub-agencies, where the survey proceedings are sufficiently complete, to see how far the orders of Government can be given effect to, and that arrangements have been made with the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, for the deputation of two subordinates of the Survey-Settlement Department for the

purpose of instructing the opium officers in the use of the maps and records. The Lieutenant-Governor will await the report promised by the Board on the results of these experiments, as also the report called for in paragraph 3 of the last year's Resolution on the subject of the alleged insecurity of land tenure among the Koeris in the district of Shahabad.

6. Out of a total cultivation of 328,192 bighas, exclusive of failures, in the Bihar Agency, 286,016 bighas were irrigated and 42,176 bighas unirrigated, while in the Benares Agency 540,399 bighas were irrigated and 30,569 bighas non-irrigated. Compared with the figures of 1895-96, there was an increase of 4,112 bighas of irrigated land and a decrease of 31,893 bighas of unirrigated land in the Bihar Agency. The most noticeable increase is in the Shahabad, Gaya, Tehta, Patna and Monghyr divisions. Aliganj also shows a small increase. The non-irrigated area in each of the other sub-agencies decreased, the most noticeable being Motihari and Bettiah, in both of which a large number of wells were constructed for artificial irrigation. Out of 16 divisions in the Benares Agency, there are only 4 divisions with non-irrigated lands, viz., Gorakhpur, Siapur, Basti and Gonda. There was a considerable increase of non-irrigated land in Gorakhpur, the number of bighas having risen from 6,762 in 1895-96 to 10,132 in 1896-97. In the Etawah Division the Agent reports difficulties on the part of cultivators in getting sufficient canal water for irrigation, but the Irrigation Department of the Government of the North-Western Provinces have promised assistance in the matter. In consequence of the scanty rainfall and drought that prevailed during the year, it was directed by Government that advances for the construction and excavation of wells should be given freely to the opium raiyats in the Bihar Agency. The Lieutenant-Governor notices with satisfaction that these orders were, as far as practicable, carried out. A total sum of Rs. 1,07,262 was advanced during the year for wells, against Rs. 38,805 in the previous year, of which Rs. 54,538 were for pukka and Rs. 52,724 for kutchha wells. 794 pukka and 17,429 kutchha wells were constructed, as against 349 and 3,043, respectively, in the previous year. The balance outstanding on the 31st August 1897 was Rs. 74,629-9 2, of which Rs. 2,783-12-6 have since been recovered. In Benares Rs. 91,696 were advanced, against Rs. 13,063 in the preceding year, the increase being due to the same cause as in Bihar. 239 pukka and 17,302 kutchha wells were sunk during the year, against 61 and 1,671, respectively, in the previous year. The kutchha wells were scattered over all the divisions, the largest number having been constructed, as in the previous year, in Gorakhpur. The balance outstanding on 31st August 1897 was Rs. 25,067-10-10.

7. The total outturn of the season was 45,500 chests of provision opium, of which 22,000 chests were manufactured in Bihar and 23,500 chests in Benares, as against 22,741 chests in the former and 22,300 chests in the latter Agency in the previous year. One thousand five hundred and eleven chests of Benares opium had to be drawn from the outturn of that Agency, to make up the quantity advertised for sale in the calendar year 1897, and there was a surplus of 1,841 chests available on 1st January 1898, from the outturn of the Bihar Agency in the previous year. Of the total number of 45,830 chests thus available for sale during 1898, 39,000 chests in equal proportions of Bihar and Benares opium will be brought forward for sale, leaving a reserve of 6,830 chests on the 1st January 1899, after satisfying the requirements of 1898. The quantity of Nepal opium delivered during the year was 195 maunds, against 248 maunds in the previous year. The decrease is reported to be due to the bad season.

The opium obtained during the year was good, but was again of exceptionally high consistence in both Agencies, the average in Bihar being 76° 35, as against 77° 87 in 1895-96, and in Benares 73° 39, as against 73° 96 in the previous year. This involved loss to Government, to the estimated extent of over four lakhs in the two Agencies. The loss is twofold, for not only has Government to pay more to the raiyats, but caking at above the standard consistence is necessitated, although no higher price is fetched. The high consistence of the drug also entails additional work on the factory staff. Proposals from the Factory Superintendent, Patna, for regulating the consistence of the drug have been circulated to the most experienced Sub-Deputy Opium Agents for an expression of their opinion, and a report to Government is promised. There were 104lbs. of cake and 912lbs. of powdered medical opium manufactured at Patna, while 561lbs. of *morphia hydrochloras*,

12lbs. of *morphia acetate* and 13lbs. of *morphia sulphate* were turned out at Ghazipur. The Government of India having approved of the scheme propounded by Dr. Sedgefield to the effect that a London firm should be asked to undertake the sale there of monthly consignments of opium alkaloids manufactured at the Ghazipur Factory, the Secretary of State was asked to conclude the necessary arrangements. Intimation was received after the close of the year that arrangements had been concluded with the firm of Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges and Company, who will dispose of the alkaloids by private contract or public sale at their discretion. Large purchases were also made by the Shanghai Dispensary.

8. The home produce being still considered insufficient for all requirements, the plan of purchasing Malwa opium for excise purposes was continued during the year.

Mr. Hastings, who was deputed for the purpose, purchased 4,023 maunds of crude opium, of which 1,867 maunds were of special quality, as free from oil as practicable, against 1,408 maunds of that quality obtained during the previous year. The opium purchased was both cheaper and of better quality than in previous seasons. A saving of Rs. 1,200 was effected by the early purchase of *Hali* rupees, which are the main purchasing medium of Malwa opium, and the Government of India have sanctioned the continued deputation of Mr. Hastings to Indore to lay in a reserve of *Hali* coin at a time when the price is low. The Board had under consideration the question of the manufacture of abkari opium on an improved method calculated to further reduce the quantity of oil in the cakes, and have issued instructions for blending the Factory opium with the "special" Malwa opium, or with "ordinary" mixed with "special" Malwa opium. The purchase and issue of Malwa opium involve considerable loss of revenue to Government, and it is the expressed intention of the Government of India that the system should not be continued longer than is absolutely necessary.

9. The expenditure of the season in the Bihar Agency was Rs. 85,70,864, against Rs. 92,76,235 in the previous year, and in the Benares Agency Rs. 1,42,44,856, against

Rs. 1,37,88,793 in the previous year. There was thus a decrease of Rs. 7,05,371 in Bihar, and an increase of Rs. 4,56,063 in Benares, the net result being a decrease in both the Agencies of Rs. 2,49,308 in the total expenditure, as compared with the previous year's figures. The increase in Benares is due to larger outturn, and the decrease in Bihar to shorter outturn during the year. The average cost per maund of opium on the net expenditure was Rs. 265-12-8 in the Benares Agency, and Rs. 271-8-8 in the Bihar Agency, against Rs. 264-4-7 and Rs. 264-3-7, respectively, in the previous year. The average cost per chest in the Benares Agency was Rs. 479-14-2, against Rs. 480-12-4 in the preceding year; in the Bihar Agency the average cost per chest was Rs. 495-12-10, as against Rs. 461-14 in 1895-96, the increase of Rs. 3-14-10 being due to the smaller outturn of the season.

10. The total number of chests turned out by the mills in 1896-97 was 52,256, against 41,860 in the preceding year. All chests were made of mango-wood, sal wood being kept

in stock only to meet emergencies. The average cost of a mango-wood chest was Rs. 2-5-11, against Rs. 2-5-3 in the previous year. The increase is due to the rise in the price of wood. The total cost of working the mills during the year was Rs. 41,931, against Rs. 36,925 in 1895-96. The quantity of mango and simul wood contracted for during the season was 191,126 cubic feet and 60,000 cubic feet, respectively, against 83,063 cubic feet and 28,446 cubic feet, respectively, during the preceding year.

11. The following statement shows at a glance the particulars relating to cases of breaches of the opium law during the past two years:—

	Cases investi- gated.		Persons—						Fines—				Rewards to informers.	
			Tried.		Convicted.		Acquitted.		Imposed.		Realised.			
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
									Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Regul. ...	833	741	676	839	848	710	131	114	26,467	28,689	17,283	16,180	20,659	23,853
North-Western Provinces ...	513	580	600	680	463	408	138	122	8,344	10,012	4,580	4,923	4,374	4,507

Several cases of opium smuggling are instanced in which very inadequate sentences were passed upon the accused. The Bihar Agent mentions an important case from the Hajipur subdivision, in which a smuggler was arrested by the police with 13 seers of opium in his possession. On conviction he was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 150, which was less than the value of the opium found upon him. The Benares Agent mentions a case in the Fyzabad district, in which 44 seers of opium were seized upon men who were evidently professional smugglers. The trying Magistrate sentenced the accused to a fine of Rs. 2 only, being of opinion that the confiscation of the opium was sufficient punishment. The Deputy Commissioner, in reviewing the case, commented upon the utter inadequacy of the sentence. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board as to the harm that is done by sentences of this description. The question of the retention of small quantities of produce by poppy cultivators in the Benares Agency was settled in accordance with the orders of Government in a manner which, while safeguarding the revenue, is calculated to protect the cultivators from undue police interference.

12. The alternative *assamiwar* scheme devised by Mr. A. G. Tytler, C.I.E., was introduced experimentally in the three *kothis* of the Aliganj Division of the Bihar Agency from 1st September 1896. The only part of Bihar, where the Benares system in its integrity has been adopted, is the Barhi subdivision of Gaya. The alternative scheme is in effect a compromise between the Bihar and Benares systems. It provides for the separate adjustment of each raiyat's accounts at the time of weighments, payments being made, as hitherto, through the *khattadars*. It has been reported that the experiment has been an unqualified success, while the principle of ensuring payment in full to the producer cannot but tend to popularise the poppy cultivation. For the successful working of the scheme, Government is indebted to the energy of Mr. Tytler. The Lieutenant-Governor will await a report from the Board on the question of the extension of the alternative scheme to the other sub-agencies of Bihar.

13. The discovery of a serious defalcation of Government money by the late Treasurer of the Patna Opium Factory necessitated a thorough revision of the Factory Treasury rules. Draft revised rules have been framed, and they will be awaited by the Lieutenant-Governor.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to thank Mr. Grimley for his careful administration of the Opium Department. His thanks are also due to Messrs. Wright and Grierson for their efficient management of their respective Agencies. The services of Mr. D. Blyth, who acted for Mr. Grierson during his absence on six months' leave, are also acknowledged by the Lieutenant-Governor. The officers of whom special mention is made as deserving of commendation for good work are Messrs. A. G. Tytler, C.I.E., J. Christian, A. Christian, H. Blair, L. L. Parrott, Dr. Owen, Factory Superintendent, Patna, Messrs. A. C. Bryson, J. E. Hand, A. W. Ross, W. H. T. Howey, L. S. Graham, G. M. Gregory, G. A. Levett-Yeats and Rai Gagan Chunder Rai Bahadur, Head Accountant of the Benares Agent's office. In Mr. Pratt and Mr. G. DeC. Hobson the Department has lost two excellent officers by retirement.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

**IDENTIFICATION OF OLD OFFENDERS BY ANTHROPOMETRY AND
FINGER IMPRESSIONS.**

No. 17481 (Police)—The 22nd March 1898.—The following is published for general information.

M. FINUCANE,
Offg. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 1571, dated Calcutta, the 19th February 1898.

From—E. R. HENRY, Esq., I.C.S., Inspector-General of Police, L.P.,
To—The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

In continuation of previous correspondence,* I have the honour to

* Letters No. 25223 of 22nd December 1891, No. 1732 of 25th February 1893, No. 6553 of 1st May 1894, No. 10552A of 26th June 1895, No. 14501A of 24th June 1896, and 2471 of 13th March 1897, from the Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

submit information regarding the working during 1897 of Anthropometry and regarding the progress made in substituting identification by Finger impressions only, not supplemented by measurements, for

the Anthropometric system.

2. In my letter No. 2471 of 13th March 1897, the relative advantages of the two systems are discussed; and as I was able to report, as the outcome of some years' work at the subject that a satisfactory system of classification had been devised, the Government of India was pleased to appoint towards the end of March a Committee consisting of Major-General Strahan, R.E., Surveyor-General, and Mr. Pedler, F.R.S., to inquire into and report on it. After careful examination of details, this Committee recorded their opinion (copy attached) that the system of classification elaborated in this Province is most effective, answers all possible tests, and must on its merits in time supersede Anthropometry everywhere, and the Governor General in Council has now directed its introduction throughout British India.

3. Bombay, the North-Western Provinces, Burma, Assam, the Central Provinces, and, I believe, Madras are accumulating Finger impression cards, and the orders of the Government of India are awaited as to the arrangements under which officers of these Provinces are to have explained to them the principles of the classification. It would possibly be convenient and conducive to ensuring that at the outset a correct system is adopted if the explanation could be given at the head-quarters of the several provinces, the opportunity being taken to classify all the Finger impression cards collected there.

4. It may now be claimed that the great value of Finger impressions as a means of fixing identity has been fully established, for there is no department of public business in this Province in which this agency is not being used. In the Opium Department it has solved the difficulty experienced of ensuring that money entrusted to middlemen shall actually reach the cultivators entitled to it. The Opium Agent, Bihar, has now few or no cases in which the opium cultivators repudiate receipts authenticated by their thumb impression. In the Emigration Department it is being used in agreements and in receipts for money. It is being regularly used in our competitive examinations as a check on personation. It has been introduced into the Postal Department and in the Military Pensions Department. It is being fully utilised in all Registration offices, where it has been instrumental in causing numerous cases of false personation to be successfully worked out and the guilty punished, and it is being gradually brought into requisition by zamindars and other private persons in substitution for signatures. Its introduction must have the effect of reducing litigation and easing the burden on the courts, for wherever it is used in place of, or as supplementary to signatures, incontestable evidence is provided of identity which it is useless to challenge. A man may disown his signature and may at different times, give signatures varying from each other in essentials, but he cannot disown his finger impression, for if he is required to give it a second time, it must correspond in the thousand and one details which together make up the pattern, and this correspondence can be exactly pointed out and its probative value can, if necessary, be represented in mathematical calculation.

5. During the year 2,538 persons were on arrest treated by the District Police as unidentified. By sustained enquiry the local police were successful

ultimately in getting 1,498 of these recognized, leaving a balance of 1,040 persons unidentified (of whom 124 were juveniles, 32 were women, and 104 residents of Native States, where the system has not been introduced), with whom the Central Police office had to deal. The following table gives statistics for four years:—

YEAR.	Number identified by Anthropometry only.	Number identified by Finger impressions only.	Total number identified.	Number in column 4 referred by Bengal districts.	Total number of persons in Bengal districts whose identity local police unable to ascertain.	Percentage of success from Bengal districts (column 6 to column 5).	Percentage of success with females, juveniles, and non-British subjects excluded from total of column 6.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1894 ...	143	...	143	112	636	21	27
1895 ...	207	...	207	162	641	25	31.6
1896 ...	334	...	334	233	831	28	42.3
1897 ...	318	174	492	326	1,040	31	41.6

The figures in column 4 for 1897 include 123 persons recognized for the Calcutta Police, 31 for Assam, 1 for Madras, 2 for Cooch Behar, and 10 for the North-Western Provinces. It will be seen that the figures for total identifications represent a maintained improvement for each year of over 40 per cent. on the preceding year's figures, and that in 1897 about 4 in every 10 possible cases were identified. The 492 successful recognitions of 1897 include 174 cases in which the identification was effected by the Finger impressions only, not supplemented by measurements.

6. On receipt of the orders of the Government of India recognizing the new system, we commenced, in June, to institute search under it and the 174 cases shown in column 3 represent results. Considering the relative smallness of the Finger-impression record, the measure of success obtained has been considerable, and bears out the opinion expressed by the Committee as to the efficiency of this system, which has yielded better results in the first seven months of its working than were obtained by Anthropometry with a criminal record of approximately corresponding volume in twelve months. It may be noted that we come across numerous instances in which the measurements submitted for search vary by considerably more than the allowable difference from those originally recorded, and that the error attributable to the personal equation, even with automatic and self-registering measuring instruments, is a frequently recurring cause of failure. Such error practically disappears in a system of identifying by Finger-impressions, which possesses the additional advantage that juveniles whose physical structure has not been fully developed come within its scope. It has been deemed undesirable to extend the system to females; so in future women alone will be excluded from the class to whom it will be made applicable. The great advantages which the new system possesses as regards economy, saving of time, certainty in results, and its capability of being worked by unskilled agency have been described in previous letters and in the report of the Committee. Since January 1897 the Finger impressions only, and not the measurements, of new convicts have been taken, and attention has been concentrated on reducing the Anthropometric and building up the Finger Impression Record. We have now over 20,000 classified Finger impression cards, and by obtaining Finger impression duplicates, have reduced the Anthropometric record to less than 25,000, and within the next few months will eliminate some 5,000 more. By the end of this year, the Anthropometric record will contain less than 20,000 cards, and the Finger impression record considerably more than 25,000. During 1897 two out of every three recognitions were effected by Anthropometry; this proportion will be reversed in 1898. The complete reduction of the Anthropometric record may occupy about three years. The cards that are being eliminated contain measurements recorded with exactness, which should be of value to Anthropological research in Europe. Pending orders of Government as to their disposal, they will not be destroyed.

7. In conclusion, I may call attention to a disability imposed by a recent interpretation of the law. The law which regulates the admission of the

testimony of experts is contained in section 45, Indian Evidence Act, and is to the following effect—

“When a Court has to form an opinion upon a point of foreign law, or of science or art, or as to the identity of handwriting, the opinions upon that point of persons specially skilled in such foreign law, science or art, or in questions as to identity of handwriting are relevant facts. Such persons are called experts.”

The High Court in a contested case has decided that Finger impressions are not handwriting, and that consequently expert testimony as to their decipherment is inadmissible. With suitable appliances it is easy so to enlarge the impressions brought under comparison as to make plain to Magistrate or Judge or Jury the points of coincidence or divergence relied upon, and they can then form their own opinion as to the value of this evidence. But with no such appliances available, the Judge or Jurors, whose eyesight from age or other cause may be defective, are required to compare impressions, always on a relatively small scale, and sometimes partially blurred, and this is work outside their competency for which the help of experts is more needed than in questions of handwriting. The addition of the words “or finger impressions” after the words “as to identity of handwriting” in section 45, Indian Evidence Act, would meet this difficulty.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE INTO THE SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION BY FINGER IMPRESSIONS.

UNDER instructions from the Government of Bengal, the undersigned met in the office of Mr. Henry, Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces, on the 29th March 1897, to report on his system of identification by finger impressions.

2. Mr. Henry first explained the present, or anthropometrical, system of identification by measurements and its classification, which has yielded excellent and progressively improving results each year. During 1896, 4 out of every possible 10 cases were identified. But the system has weak points:—

- (a) Skilled persons are required to take the measurements, and they must have sufficient education to enable them to read the instruments and to use the decimal notation. This is more particularly a serious objection in India, where warders and policemen are frequently far from well-educated men.
- (b) Carefully made and delicate instruments are necessary to take the measurements with sufficient accuracy.
- (c) The number of measurements to be taken is considerable, viz., 3 for the length of head, 3 for the width of head, 3 for length of left forearm, 3 for length of left foot, 3 for length of left little finger and 3 for height, or 18 in all; the mean of each group of 3 is taken as the final measurement. In addition to these, marks and scars are searched for, and so the actual anthropometric record of one person occupies the measuree between half an hour and one hour.
- (d) Owing to the liability to error in measuring or in recording the measurements, notwithstanding that the instruments used, i.e., callipers and sliding bars, have been rendered automatic in their working, and, in the former case, self-registering also, it has been found desirable to allow for a possible variation of 2 millimetres in excess and in defect of the measurements. This necessitates, in some cases, search being made in 10 or even 12 different pigeon-holes for the duplicate of a case which is being tested, to insure its not being passed over. The average time of search, therefore, under this system exceeds one hour.

As an instance of how inaccuracies will creep in, the last card, of which the original had just been discovered, showed two errors or variations in measurements, one being as much as $3\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres.

3. After having seen the anthropometric system and having noted its defects, the system of finger impression was carefully examined. The first thing that struck us was the facility with which the impressions were made, and the clearness of the impressions themselves; every little detail being, as a rule, sharply defined and easily seen with the help of an ordinary magnifying glass. The method of taking them is simplicity itself; all the materials required are, a flat piece of tin, a bottle of ordinary printer's ink, and a small rubber roller to spread the ink on the tin. The finger is rolled carefully, without rubbing, on the inked tin, and then on to paper; to take impressions of all the 10 digits occupies only 5 minutes or less, and in this short time an absolutely accurate record, without any possibility of accidental error, is obtained, without skilled labour and without instruments.

4. The method of classification devised by Mr. Henry was then explained to us. The first classification divides all the different kinds of impressions into two classes only, which can be recognised at a glance; by taking the combinations of these two classes, as exhibited in the 10 different digits taken in pairs, all descriptive cards can be divided into 1,024 classes, and to each class is allotted a separate pigeon-hole. By means of the key, a copy of which is attached, any one pigeon-hole can be at once found with the greatest ease, and certainly even by a person who has never seen the system before. We were both enabled to do this at once without any difficulty. Having thus located the card in one particular pigeon-hole, a further classification is necessary to assist in the search through all the different cards in that pigeon-hole; this further classification depends on the details in the impressions, which it is unnecessary to enter into here, but it is so simple that we were both able to find the originals of two of the most intricate cards that could be produced, with ease and certainty. The men, whose duty it is to look up for the originals, in no case took more than five minutes to produce the original, the duplicate of which we had handed to them out of a file of some 600 records, and the originals of which were part of a file of finger print cards, exceeding eight thousand in number. One case which was selected as being apparently an especially difficult one, as it was very indistinct, was found in two minutes only. The principles of the sub-classification are such, that should minute distribution be needed in consequence of any great accumulation in any one pigeon-hole, it can easily be made by extending the same principles. The system of search is, therefore, much more rapid and more certain than that for the anthropometric data.

5. The greatest sceptic would be at once convinced of identity on being shown the original and duplicate impressions. The exact repetition of most minute details is quite astonishing. There is no possible margin of error, and there are no doubtful cases.

6. Thus the three main conditions laid down by the Committee, appointed by the Secretary of State, to enquire into the best means available for identifying habitual criminals, are fully satisfied, viz:—

- (1) The descriptions, measurements or marks, which are the basis of the system, must be such as can be taken readily and with sufficient accuracy by prison warders or police officers of ordinary intelligence.
- (2) The classification of the description must be such that, on the arrest of an old offender, who gives a false name, his record may be found readily and with certainty.
- (3) When the case has been found among the classified descriptions, it is desirable that convincing evidence of identity should be afforded.

In that same report it is acknowledged that Mr. Galton's finger-print method completely met the first and third conditions, but they disapproved of his method of classification. Mr. Henry's method of classification and sub-classification has, we consider, effectually got over the objections raised by them, for, out of 8,000 cards, no sub-class contained more than from 10 to 20 originals, and the system is capable of almost endless amplification, if necessary.

7. In conclusion, therefore, we are of opinion that the method of identification of habitual criminals by means of finger-prints, as worked on the system of recording impressions, and of classification devised by Mr. Henry, may be safely adopted as being superior to the anthropometric method, (1) in simplicity of working, (2) in the cost of apparatus, (3) in the fact that all the skilled work required is transferred to the central or classification bureau, (4) in the rapidity with which the process can be worked, and (5) in the certainty of the results.

C. STRAHAM, R.E., Major-General,
Surveyor-General of India.

ALEX. PEDLER, F.R.S.,
Principal, Presidency College,
Calcutta.

The 31st March 1897.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 21st March 1898.

Burdwan.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of potatoes and *rabi* crops continues. Sugarcane being pressed. Common rice selling as follows:—

				Srs.		
Sadar	...	...	...	12	to	15
Kalna	...	...	...	13		
Katwa	...	...	...	14		
Kaniganj	...	...	...	14	to	15
				} per rupee.		

Birbhum.—No rain. Weather getting warm. Pressing of sugarcane going on. Price of common rice at Sadar 13½, and at Rampur Hat 14½ seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Bankura.—No rain. Weather getting warm. Pressing of sugarcane continues. Threshing of wheat and barley going on. Fodder and water sufficient. Sporadic cases of cow-pox reported. Common rice sells at 15 seers per rupee at Sadar and Vishnupur.

Midnapore.—No rain. Prospects of *boro* paddy good. Indigo is said to be withering in Garbetta. Prices of common rice:—

				Srs.		
Sadar	...	...	...	13		
Contai	...	...	...	16		
Tamluk	...	...	...	13		
Ghatal	...	...	...	12	to	14
				} per rupee.		

Hooghly.—Rainfall nil. No crop on the ground. Land is being ploughed for jute and *aus* sowings. Rain wanted. Sugarcane-pressing continues. Common rice sells from 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Howrah.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* and transplantation of *boro* going on. Rain badly wanted to assist ploughing. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall nil. Days hot and nights cool. Rain is very badly wanted for tillage of lands. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.		
Sadar	...	...	...	10	to	13
Barasat	...	...	...	12½		
Bacirhat	...	...	...	12½		
Diamond Harbour	...	...	...	13		
				} per rupee.		

Nadia.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* crops continues. Rain wanted for cultivation of land for *aus* crop in places. Common rice sells at 11½ to 14 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-disease at Navadwip.

Murshidabad.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *rabi* crops continues. Indigo and mulberry doing well. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.		
Sadar	...	...	...	13½		
Jangipur	...	...	...	14		
Kandi	...	...	...	14½		
				} per rupee.		

Jessore.—No rain. Weather warmer than previous week. Harvesting of winter crops nearly over. Rain badly wanted for cultivation. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.		
Sadar	...	...	...	12	to	14
Jhenida	...	...	...	11	to	12
Magura	...	...	...	12	to	13
Narail	...	...	...	11½		
				} per rupee.		

Khulna.—No rain. Weather getting hot. Prospects of *boro* rice growing worse for want of rain. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.		
Sadar	...	...	...	13½	to	14
Satkhira	...	...	...	14½		
Bagerhat	...	...	...	13		
				} per rupee.		

Rajshahi.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Standing crops doing well. Lands are being prepared for *bhudo* paddy and jute. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water-supply ample. Rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Gathering of mustard finished. Lands are being prepared for *bhudo* crops. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall at Sadar nil, Alipur Duars 0.12. Weather seasonable. Lands are being prepared for jute and *bhadra* paddy. Tobacco and other *rabi* crops are doing well. No want of fodder and water. Common rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Darjeeling.—Rainfall at Sadar 0.06. Weather seasonable. Hills—*Bhutta* being sown; wheat and barley progressing well. Terai—Ploughing for jute and *bhudo* going on. Coarse rice sells as follows:—

Hills	...	...	...	...	8 to 11 seers per rupee.
Terai	...	...	...	...	13 to 16 " "

Bhutta sells from 18 to 27 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—No rain. Ploughing for jute and sowing of *aus* going on. Harvesting of *rabi* crops continues. Prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient except at Kurigram, where they are reported scarce in places. Good drinking-water also scarce in places at Gaibandha.

Bogra.—Rainfall nil. Gathering of oilseeds finished. Lands are being prepared for jute and *aus*. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling from 11½ to 13½ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—No rain. Weather fine and hot. Crop prospects good. Rain is wanted. Common rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Dacca.—Rainfall nil. Weather very hot. Prospects of standing crops good. Rain is much wanted. No cattle disease. Common rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee. Fodder available.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Rain would be beneficial for *boro* crop. Lands are being prepared for jute and *aus*. Common rice 10 to 12½ seers per rupee. Deficient water-supply in parts of the district.

Faridpur.—No rain. Weather hot. Prospects of crops good. Rice 11 to 13½ seers per rupee.

Backergunge.—Rainfall nil. Weather warm. Rain wanted for crops. Common rice sells from 9 to 13½ seers per rupee.

Tippera.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Rain wanted. Ploughing continues. Chillies and pulses are ripening. Cattle-disease reported from Brahmanbaria. Fodder and water available. Price of rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—Rainfall nil. Weather cloudy. Prospects of crops fair. Rain wanted. Cattle-disease reported from Raniganj. Fodder and water available. Price of common rice 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—No rain. Days warm and nights cool. Standing crops suffering from drought. Rain wanted. Fodder bad and drinking-water scarce in the wave-swept area. Rice sells at 12½ seers per rupee on an average.

Patna.—No rain. Harvesting of wheat, barley, gram, peas, *masur* and *khesari* going on. Extraction of opium almost finished. Sugarcane still being pressed. Prices almost stationary. In Patna common rice (new) selling at 16½ seers per rupee. Fodder and water for cattle sufficient.

Gaya.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* and landing of poppy going on. Prospects good. Fodder and water ample. Rice sells at 14 seers, barley 19 seers, wheat 13 seers, gram 17 seers, *arhar* 16 seers, and *makai* 17½ seers per rupee.

Shahabad.—No rain. Weather getting hot. Harvesting of *rabi* progressing. Sugarcane plantation going on. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Saran.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* crops being harvested with good outturn. Opium collection almost finished. Fodder and water sufficient. Average prices are—common rice 13.9 seers and *makai* 21 seers per rupee, against 9.7 seers and 10.4 seers respectively last year.

Champaran.—No rain. Weather getting warm. Harvesting of *rabi* has commenced, and opium collection is almost completed. Lands being prepared for *bhadra* and *ghani*. Prices almost stationary. Common rice and maize sell at 14 and 21 seers respectively, against average 15½ and 20½ seers.

Muzaffarpur.—No rain. Prospects good. *Rabi* crops being harvested. Prices are—common rice 12 to 14 seers, wheat 11 to 12 seers, barley 20 seers, *makai* 20 seers, gram 15 seers, *rahar* 15 seers, and *marua* 22 seers per rupee.

Darbhanga.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *rabi* continues. Sowing of indigo completed at Samastipur. Prospects of standing crops good. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells at 12½ seers per rupee at Sadar.

Monghyr.—No rain. Weather getting warm. Poppy all in and satisfactory. Harvesting of *rabi* crops going on. Prospects good. Mango prospects good. No cattle-disease. Common rice sells as follows:—

Monghyr	...	...	...	12 to 16 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	12 to 13½ " "
Jamui	...	...	...	14 " "

Bhagalpur.—No rain. Weather hot. High westerly wind blowing. Harvesting of *rabi* crops going on; good outturn expected. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-disease reported from Protapganj in the Supaul subdivision. Prices stationary.

Purnea.—No rain. Weather getting hot. Prospects of standing *rabi* crops good. Tobacco being harvested. A few sporadic cases of cattle-disease reported from Araria. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	15 seers per rupee.
Kishanganj	...	...	...	15 " "
Araria	...	...	...	17 " "

Malda.—No rain. Weather getting hot. Wheat, barley, and peas are being harvested; 16 annas' outturn is expected. Ordinary rice selling at 14 seers per rupee at Sadar. Fodder and water sufficient.

Sonthal Parganas.—No rain. Hot wind in day-time, nights cool. *Rabi* harvest proceeding. Prospects of *rabi* and mango good. *Mahua* flower beginning to fall. Price of common rice 18 to 16 seers, and of maize 17 to 20 seers per rupee. Fodder as much as usual. Water sufficient.

Cuttack.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Threshing of paddy and pressing of sugarcane going on. *Dalua* in ear. Condition of cattle generally good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs. ch.	
Cuttack	15 12) per rupee.
Jajpur	...	...	...	18 6
Kendrapara	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	17 15

Balasore.—Rainfall nil. Harvesting of *rabi* crops continues. *Dalua* in ear. Cotton growing well. Sugarcane being pressed. Sporadic cases of cattle-pox reported from parts. Price of rice varies from 16 to 19 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 16 and 18 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively.

Angul.—No rain. Weather hot. Rice at Angul sells at 20 seers per rupee. Price in Khondmals stationary. Cattle-disease reported from all parts of Angul.

Puri.—No rain. Rain badly wanted for summer rice, *moony* and mango crops. Lands being ploughed for next *sarad* crop in places. Prospects of cotton, gram, tobacco and other *rabi* crops generally good. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

Puri	...	...	...	17 seers 2 chittacks per rupee.
Khurda	...	...	...	16 " 7 " "
Interior of district	...	...	...	15 seers 7 chittacks to 19 " 11 " "

Hazaribagh.—No rain. Prospects of mango and *mahua* very favorable. Rice sells at 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—No rain. Reaping of wheat, *rahar*, and barley continues. Prospects of *mahua* good. Rice sells at Ranchi 13 seers and in the interior from 13 to 16 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palamanu.—Rainfall nil. Weather unseasonable. *Rabi* harvest commenced; 12 annas' outturn expected. Cold retarding *mahua*. Water and fodder plentiful. Rice selling at 12 seers per rupee.

Manbhum.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops on the ground good. Cattle-disease reported from thana Purulia. Fodder and drinking-water sufficient. Average price of common rice at Sadar and Gobindpur 15 seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

Singhbhum.—Rainfall nil. Rice plentiful; price 14 to 16 seers per rupee.

General Summary.—It rained slightly during the week at Darjeeling and at the Alipu Duars, but there was no rain elsewhere in the Province. Rain is required for the spring crops, and in some parts for the ploughing of land for the *aus* and jute crops. The harvesting of the *rabi* crops is proceeding, and the outturn, as reported from some districts, is expected to be good. The extraction of opium and the pressing of sugarcane are almost finished. The *mahua* crop in Chota Nagpur and in the Sonthal Parganas is promising. Cattle-disease is reported from Lohardaga and Angul, and from parts of Bankura, Nadia, Tippera, Noakhali, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Balasore, and Manbhum. There is good supply of fodder except in parts of Rangpur and Chittagong, as previously reported. Deficiency of water-supply is also reported from the same parts and from parts of Mymensingh. The price of rice is still steady.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

The 22nd March 1898.

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Bengal.

Number.		DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE IN																											
			WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR CHOLU (Sorghum Vulgare)															
			Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.										
BENGAL.																														
BUARWAR DIVISION.	1	Bardwan	...	...	9 8	...	...	...	11 4	11 4	9 0	13 2	13 14	10 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	Birbhum	10 0	8 0	7 8	...	...	...	9 0	9 0	8 8	13 8	13 8	9 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3	Bankura	12 8	9 0	9 0	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	10 0	15 0	15 0	11 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	Midnapore	10 0	8 0	8 0	...	...	...	11 0	$\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} 10 0 \\ \text{to} \\ 11 0 \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$	8 0	13 12	13 12	11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5	Hooghly	10 0	10 0	8 8	...	...	...	7 8	7 8	7 8	11 0	11 0	9 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	6	Howrah	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 8	10 0	8 0	12 8	13 0	10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PRESIDENTY DIVISION.	7	24 Divisions (Kidderpore).	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} 5 12 \\ \text{to} \\ 8 0 \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$	8 14	7 0	$\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} 11 8 \\ \text{to} \\ 13 0 \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$	11 14	10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	8	Calcutta	10 10	10 0	8 0	12 4	12 4	11 13	6 10	6 10	6 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	12 4	12 4	11 13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9	Nadia	13 5	9 2	9 5	...	...	...	5 15	5 15	6 15	12 7	12 7	9 11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	10	Murshidabad	13 4	12 0	9 8	...	...	...	10 0	10 12	8 0	13 8	14 8	9 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	11	Jessore	8 0	8 0	8 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	13 0	13 0	11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	12	Khulna	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 0	12 0	9 8	14 4	14 4	11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RAJSHAH DIVISION.	13	Rajshahi	14 4	13 8	8 0	22 8	13 12	14 4	6 0	6 0	7 8	13 8	13 8	9 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	14	Dinajpur	8-14-17	9 9	8 0	...	8 0	...	10 3	10 3	8 4	14-5-22	14 5	10 3-17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	15	Jalpaiguri	8 4	8 4	8 0	...	...	...	5 4	5 4	7 0	12 0	12 8	9 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	16	Darjeeling	8 0	8 0	6 0	7 0	8 0	8 0	5 8	5 8	5 8	11 0	11 0	8 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	17	Rangpur	7 0	7 0	7 0	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	12 0	12 0	8 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	18	Bogra	7 2	7 8	6 10	...	...	...	9 0	8 4	7 8	12 0	12 12	10 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DACA DIVISION.	19	Pabna	12 0	8 0	9 0	12 0	12 0	16 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	12 0	12 0	10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	20	Dacca	8 0	8 0	8 0	26 0	26 0	...	10 8	10 0	9 0	12 0	11 12	10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	21	Mymensingh	8 0	8 0	7 0	...	...	...	7 8	7 8	6 0	10 0	10 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	22	Faridpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 7	5 8	5 8	11 12	12 0	9 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	23	Backergunge	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 8	11 8	10 0	12 0	12 0	11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

- A. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kulna 10 seers (panga) and 11 seers (karkatch); Katwa 10 seers 15 chitaks (karkatch); Raniganj 10½ seers (panga).
- B. At Rampur the retail price of salt is 11½ seers per rupee.
- C. At Vishnupur the retail price of salt is 9½ seers per rupee.
- D. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Contai 9 seers (panga); Tamuk 10 seers; Ghatal 10½ seers.
- E. In the Serampore and Jahanabad subdivisions the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
- F. At Ulubaria the retail price of salt is 10 seers 10½ chitaks per rupee.
- G. In the wards in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Chetia 10 seers 10 chitaks; Barasat 10 seers; Magrahat 10 seers 10 chitaks; Buduria 10½ seers.
- H. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kushtia (Bahadurkhati) 10½ seers (panga); Choudanga 10 seers; Meherpur 10 seers (karkatch); Ranighat 10 seers (crushed).
- I. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt (karkatch) per rupee are:—Lalbagh 11 seers; Kandi 10½ seers; Jangipur return not received.
- J. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Jhenida return not received; Magura 9½ seers; Narail 8 seers 11 chitaks; Bongaon 9 seers 2 chitaks.

PIES OF 80 TOLANS.

MAHA OR CUMBU. *Malectum typhoid.*
(cum.)

MAHA OR RAOL. *(Elaeagnus Corocana)*

Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.
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Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch.

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000	000	11 0	10 0	11 0	000
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000	000	000	000	000	000

KANGNI OR KAKUN, ITALIAN MILLET. (<i>Setaria Italica</i> .)			GRAM, CHANA, CHHOLA, KADALAI OR SUNAGA. (<i>Cicer arictinum</i> .)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.

S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
...	12	8	12	0	12	1	...	...
...	16	0	10	0	9	1	...	...
...	12	8	11	0	10	1	...	...
...	10	0	8	0	11	1	...	...
...	8	0	8	0	8	1	...	...
...	9	0	9	0	10	1	...	...

...	...	...	...	10	4	8	14	10	1	...	...
10	10	10	0	8	0	10	10	9	8	10	1
...	...	...	...	17	12	12	5	13	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	16	0	16	0	14	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0	10	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	7	0	7	0	9	1	...	...

...	...	...	...	15	0	12	0	13	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	9	9	8	0	10	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	9	4	9	0	10	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	7	0	7	0	7	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	7	12	8	0	9	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	7	2	7	8	7	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	9	4	8	0	10	1	...	...

...	...	...	...	10	4	10	0	10	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0	8	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	5	8	5	4	16	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	7	8	7	8	9	1	...	...

Quarters Station Bazars of the Districts of Bengal on the 15th March 1898.

WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 SEERS.												DISTRICTS.	Number.										
INDIAN-COBB OR MAIZE (Zea m. Indica.)			ARHAR OR THUR, CADJAN PEA. (Cajanus Indicus.)			SALT.			SALT.														
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.												
BENGAL.																							
S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.												
A Crushed.												Burdwan.	1										
...	...	16	0	17	8	13	8	11	4	11	4	11	4	13	6	7	3	6	0	3	7	0	
B												Birbhum.	2										
...	...	15	0	15	0	12	0	10	8	10	8	10	8	13	10	6	3	10	6	3	10	6	
C Panza.												Bankura.	3										
...	...	11	0	10	0	10	0	10	7	10	7	10	8	13	13	0	3	13	0	3	13	0	
D Panza.												Midnapore.	4										
...	...	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	8	10	0	13	9	0	3	10	0	3	15	0	
E Crushed.												Hooghly.	5										
...	...	16	0	16	0	13	0	11	0	11	0	10	8	13	7	0	3	7	0	3	12	0	
F Crushed.												Howrah.	6										
...	...	6	8	6	8	8	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	13	12	0	3	12	0	4	2	0	
...	...	11	0	11	0	9	0	10	4	10	8	19	6	13	9	0	3	8	0	4	0	0	
G Panza.												24-Paraganas (Kidderpore).	7										
...	...	6	8	8	12	10	0	10	8	10	8	10	0	13	7	0	3	7	0	3	13	0	
12	4	12	4	13	0	10	10	10	10	12	4	10	0	10	0	9	6	13	7	0	3	10	0
H Panza.												Calcutta.	8										
...	...	20	0	19	6	15	4	11	3	11	3	10	8	13	9	0	3	9	0	3	13	0	
I Karkatch.												Nadia.	9										
...	...	20	0	18	8	14	8	11	0	11	0	11	0	13	8	0	3	8	0	3	8	0	
J Panza.												Murshidabad.	10										
...	...	16	0	16	0	14	8	9	4	9	6	9	0	14	11	0	4	0	0	4	2	0	
K Panza.												Jessore.	11										
...	...	7	0	6	8	9	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	14	8	0	4	8	0	4	8	0	
L Panza.												Khulna.	12										
...	...	20	8	18	12	15	12	9	12	9	12	9	0	13	13	4	4	2	8				
M Panza.												Rajshahi.	13										
...	...	19	3	16	21	0	...	10	0	10	0	9	6	31	4	0	0	4	0	3	4	4	0
N Panza.												Dinajpur.	14										
...	...	7	8	7	4	8	8	9	12	9	8	9	0	13	12	0	3	12	0	4	1	6	
O Panza.												Jalpaiguri.	15										
18	0	18	0	13	0	5	8	5	8	6	8	8	0	18	0	18	0	1	
P Panza.												Darjeeling.	16										
15	0	15	0	10	8	6	0	6	0	8	0	8	0	18	0	9	0	14	8	0	4	8	0
Q Panza.												Rangpur.	17										
...	8	13	9	0	18	1	14	0	0	4	0	0	4	6	8	
R Panza.												Bogra.	18										
...	...	20	0	19	8	16	8	9	13	9	13	9	11	13	13	0	3	13	0	4	2	0	
S Panza.												Pabna.	19										
...	...	10	8	10	0	9	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	13	12	0	3	11	0	4	0	0	
T Panza.												Dacca.	20										
...	...	5	8	5	8	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	14	0	0	4	0	0	4	6	0	
U Panza.												Mymensingh.	21										
...	9	13	9	13	8	12	14	4	0	4	4	0	4	10	0	
V Panza.												Faridpur.	22										
...	10	0	10	0	9	0	13	12	0	3	12	0	4	4	0	
W Panza.												Bakergunge.	23										
...	

- X. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Bagerhat 10 seers ; Satkhira 9½ seers.
 Y. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt (panga) per rupee are :—Nator 9 seers ; Nowgong 9½ seers.
 Z. In Alipur Duars the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
 A. At Kurseong and Siliguri the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
 B. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Guibanda 10 seers ; Kurigram 8 seers ; Nilphamari 9 seers.
 C. At Sirajganj the retail price of salt is 10½ seers per rupee.
 D. In the marts in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Madanganj 9 seers 6 chitaks, Manikganj 9 seers, Munshirhat 9 seers 2 chitaks, Mirkadim 9 seers 2 chitaks.
 E. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Kishorganj 9 seers 6 chitaks, Jamalpur 9 seers 7 chitaks, Kagnari 8 seers, Netrokona 8 seers.
 F. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Gentludo 10 seers (panga), Medariper 10½ seers (crushed).
 G. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Pirojpur 8 seers, Patuakhali 9 seers, Bhola 8 seers.

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Head-quarters

Kupar	DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE IN																
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR CHOLDA (Sorghum Vulgare).				
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.		
BENGAL—continued.																		
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.	24	Tippora	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	10 10	9 8	12 4	11 14	10 8	...	...	...
	25	Noakhali	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 8	8 0	11 0	11 0	9 8	...	...	...
	26	Chittagong	...	...	...	...	...	10 10	11 0	8 0	11 12	12 4	10 0	...	...	...
BIHAR.																		
PATNA DIVISION.	27	Patna	...	12 9	12 0	10 0	17 0	16 8	...	13 8	12 0	10 0	16 0	14 8	10 8	20 0	19 0	12 0
	28	Gaya	...	13 4	10 0	9 12	31 0	14 0	12 4	7 8	6 8	6 12	14 0	14 4	8 12	19 0	...	10 12
	29	Shahabad	...	{ 9 12 & 11 0 }	{ 10 0 & 11 0 }	{ 8 8 & 10 0 }	17 8	16 0	10 0	{ 12 8 & 12 9 }	7 0	9 0	{ 13 8 & 14 0 }	{ 13 0 & 13 8 }	{ 9 4 & 9 8 }	...	...	...
	30	Saran	...	13 9	11 8	9 12	20 0	...	12 8	7 0	6 8	7 0	13 4	14 4	10 0	...	...	...
	31	Champaran	...	11 0	11 0	8 0	...	...	13 0	7 0	7 0	6 4	15 0	14 8	8 8	...	...	...
	32	Mungerpur	...	11 0	10 0	8 0	16 0	20 0	12 0	6 0	7 0	7 0	14 0	14 8	9 0	...	...	...
33	Darbhanga	...	9 9	9 8	6 0	14 8	11 0	11 0	6 8	7 0	8 0	12 8	13 8	9 0	...	...	...
BAGALPUR DIVISION.	34	Monghyr	...	{ 10 8 to 14 2 }	11 0	8 0	15 12	14 11	11 8	6 0	6 4	6 8	12 12	12 9	8 0	...	...	...
	35	Bhagalpur	...	10 12	10 12	8 12	14 0	14 0	12 8	12 0	11 6	8 6	14 8	14 8	9 6	...	...	...
	36	Purnea (Kasba)	...	8 8	8 8	10 0	...	...	...	13 0	13 0	8 8	16 0	16 0	9 8	...	...	...
	37	Malda (English Bazar)	...	...	6 0	...	...	...	...	7 8	...	7 8	13 8	13 0	9 0	...	...	...
	38	Sonthal Pargana	...	10 0	9 0	7 8	10 0	8 8	...	10 8	9 0	8 0	13 4	13 0	10 4	...	...	...
ORISSA.																		
ORISSA DIVISION.	39	Outlack	...	8 9	8 9	8 6	...	...	...	10 8	10 8	8 9	15 12	15 12	12 3	...	...	...
	40	Balasore	...	16 0	16 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	8 0	13 8	12 8	{ 8 0 to 10 0 }	16 0	16 0	12 0	...	...	...
	41	Puri	...	7 5	7 7	6 9	...	...	...	10 8	6 9	7 14	17 2	17 2	12 13	...	...	...
CHOTA NAGPUR.																		
CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.	42	Hanaribagh	...	9 9	9 0	8 0	13 4	10 0	10 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	12 8	13 0	9 8	...	...	...
	43	Lohardaga	...	{ 6 0 to 8 8 }	{ 6 0 to 8 8 }	{ 5 8 to 7 12 }	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	{ 7 0 to 7 8 }	12 8	13 0	{ 8 0 to 8 8 }	...	...	...
	44	Palamu	...	9 9	9 11	8 7	20 2	...	16 14	11 13	14 13	7 5	12 15	12 6	8 7	...	...	...
	45	Manbhum	...	9 0	9 0	9 0	16 0	12 0	...	9 0	9 0	9 8	15 0	16 0	10 8	...	...	...
	46	Singhbhum	...	8 0	8 0	8 10	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	9 0	16 0	16 0	11 0	...	...	...

- U. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Chandpur 9 seers; Brahmanbaria 9 seers 3 chittacks.
V. At Feni HAt the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
W. At Cox's Bazar the retail price of salt is 8½ seers per rupee.
W1. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Bairh 10½ seers, Bihar 10 seers, Dinapore return not received.
X. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Nuwada 9 seers, Aurangabad 9½ seers, Jahanabad 10 seers.
Y. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Buxar 11 seers, Bhambua 9½ seers, Sasaram 10½ seers.
Z. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Biwan 11½ seers, Gopalganj (Mirganj) 12 seers 1 chittack.
a. At Bettiah the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
b. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Hajipur 9½ seers and Sitamarhi 10 seers.
c. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Samastipur 10 seers, Madhubani 10 seers 6 chittacks.

CALCUTTA,

The 22nd March 1898.

KANONI OR KAKUN
ITALIAN MILLET.
(*Seteria italica*.)

CHHAM, CHHOLA, KAKUN
OR KAKUN
(*Cleria italica*.)

Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.
-----------------	-----------------------------	---	-----------------	-----------------------------

S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch.

...
...	...	...	7	8	7
...	...	...	8	0	8

12	0	13	0	14	0	16	0	10	8
10	0	11	0	10	0	16	0	9	8
...	...	...	...	16	8	11	0	13	0
10	0	10	0	...	...	16	0	11	4
...	...	...	...	10	8	10	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	10	0	10	0	...	...
...	...	...	...	10	8	8	0	...	...

11	8	10	2	...	...	16	12	10	8
...	...	...	...	...	...	14	0	9	8
...	...	...	...	...	...	13	0	13	0
13	0	...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0
...	...	...	...	...	...	13	4	8	8

Bird or ...

...	...	...	14	7	10	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	Chhola
...
...

...	...	...	10	0	10	0
...	...	...	8	8	8	8
...	...	...	10	0	9	0
...	...	...	16	14	13	8
...
...
...

Station Pазars of the Districts of Bengal on the 15th March 1898 —(concluded).

												WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 80 SEERS.													
INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE (Zea mays.)						ARHAR OR THUR, CADJAN IKA. (Cajanus indicus.)						SALT.						Rice.							
Present return.	Next return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next return.	Corresponding return of last year.	DISTRICTS.							
Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.	Ch. S.								
																		BENGAL—continued.							
																		U. Panga.							
																		9 0 14 7 15 4 7 15 4 6 0						Tippora. 24	
																		V. 10 0 10 0 8 0 14 0 9 14 0 0 4 12 0						Noakhali. 25	
																		W. Rangoon. 10 10 10 10 9 0 13 12 0 13 10 0 4 6 0						Chittagong. 26	
																		BIHAR.							
																		WL. Panga.							
																		10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Patna. 27	
																		X. 9 0 10 0 9 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Gaya. 28	
																		Y. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Siwan. 29	
																		Z. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Saran. 30	
																		a. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Champaran. 31	
																		b. Panga. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Muzaffarpur. 32	
																		c. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Barh. 33	
																		d. Rangoon. 9 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Monghyr. 34	
																		e. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Bhagalpur. 35	
																		f. Panga. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Purnea (Kant). 36	
																		g. Rangoon. 9 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Malda (English Bazar). 37	
																		h. Karkatch. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						South-Parganas. 38	
																		i. Karkatch. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Cuttack. 39	
																		j. Panga. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Balasore. 40	
																		k. Karkatch. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Puri. 41	
																		CHOTA NAGPUR.							
																		l. Panga. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Hazaribagh. 42	
																		m. Panga. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Lohardaga. 43	
																		n. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Palaman. 44	
																		o. Panga. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Manbhum. 45	
																		p. Crashed. 10 0 10 0 10 0 13 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0						Singbhum. 46	

- d. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are : — Begusarai 11 seers, Jamui 10 seers.
e. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are : — Banka 10 seers ; Munger 9 seers ; Supaul 10 seers.
f. In the Kishanganj and Araria subdivisions the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
g. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are : — Dargahpur 9 seers (mixed), Gonda 9 seers (mixed), Jamtara 9 seers (panga), Pakour 10 seers (karkatch), Rajmahal 14 seers (karkatch).
h. In the Jajpur and Kendrapara subdivisions the retail price of salt is 9 seers per rupee.
i. At Bhadrak the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
j. At Khurda the retail price of salt is 12 seers per rupee.
k. At Guntur the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
l. At Guntur the retail price of salt is 17 seers per rupee.

Published for general information.

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (wholesale) of Food-grains, Firewood, &c.

Number.	Name.	RICE (best sort).			COMMON RICE (medium class).			WHEAT (<i>Triticum sativum</i>).			BARLEY (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>).		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Calcutta	5 12 0	5 12 0	6 0 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	3 10 0	3 12 0	4 12 0	3 8 0	2 10 0	3 4 0
2	Burdwan	3 6 0	3 6 0	4 7 0	2 15 0	2 14 0	3 12 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Midnapore	3 8 0	3 10 0	4 6 0	2 10 0	2 12 0	3 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Patna	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	3 5 3	3 5 3	4 0 0	3 5 3	5 0 0	4 6 0	...	...	...
5	Rangpur	5 0 0	5 0 0	4 14 0	3 2 0	3 2 0	4 3 6	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 8 0	...	...	...
6	Dacca	3 11 0	3 12 0	4 4 0	3 3 0	3 4 0	4 0 0	4 14 0	4 14 0	5 0 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	...
7	Chittagong	3 12 0	3 10 0	5 0 0	3 6 0	3 4 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Patna	2 14 0	3 4 0	3 14 0	2 7 0	2 9 0	3 12 0	3 1 3	3 4 0	3 12 0	2 8 6	3 5 0	...
9	Munsherpur	6 10 6	5 11 6	5 11 6	2 13 9	2 12 0	4 7 0	3 10 0	4 0 0	5 0 0	2 8 0	2 0 0	3 5 3
10	Bhagalpur	3 4 0	3 7 0	4 15 0	2 10 6	2 10 6	4 3 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	4 6 6	2 12 0	2 12 0	3 6 0
11	Cuttack	3 6 6	3 6 6	4 5 6	3 5 6	3 7 0	3 1 0	4 8 6	4 8 6	4 13 0	...	...	...
12	Ranchi	4 0 0	4 0 0	{ 5 5 0 to 5 12 0 }	3 2 0	3 1 0	{ 4 11 0 to 5 0 0 }	4 0 0	4 11 0	5 2 6	...	...	...

CALCUTTA,
The 22nd March 1898.

JWAR OR CHOLU (Sorghum vulgare).			BAJRA OR CUMBU (Pennisetum typhoideum).			MARUA OR RAGI (Eleusine coracana).			GRAM, CHANA, CHOLA, KADALAY, OR SUNAGA (Cicer arctifolium).		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2 0	2 2 0	3 4 0	2 4 0	2 4 0	4 8 0	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 12 0	3 8 0
...	3 0 0	3 4 0	3 2 0
...
...	4 4 0	5 0 0	4 0 0
...	4 12 0	4 8 0	3 12 0
...	3 12 0	3 14 0	4 0 0
...	5 0 0	5 0 0	4 12 0
6	2 0 0	3 5 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 6 6	3 9 0	3 0 0
...	2 2 6	1 9 6	...	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 18 0
...	2 12 0	4 2 0	3 8 0
...	Biri or 2 10 6	kalai. 2 8 6	2 11 9
...	{ 4 0 0 to 4 11 0	{ 4 7 0 to 4 11 0	{ 4 0 0 to 5 0 0

PRICES PER MA

INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE (Zea mays).			ARHAR DAL OR THUR— CADJAN PEA (Cajanus indicus).			LINSKED.			MUSTARD AND RAPESEED.	
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2 5 0	2 2 0	3 12 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 8 0	3 12 0	3 12 0
...	...	...	3 9 0	3 5 0	4 4 0	...	...	...	4 8 0	3 13 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	3 10 0	3 14 0	4 0 0	Black mustard. 4 0 0 4 0 0 Rape seed. 3 5 0 3 4 0	
...	...	...	2 0 0	2 0 2	4 0 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 6 0	3 6 0
2 8 0	2 8 0	4 0 0	6 0 0	6 8 0	4 8 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	13 0 0	4 8 0	4 12 0
...	...	...	3 8 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 0 0	4 4 0
1 12 0	1 13 6	...	2 3 0	2 2 0	2 10 6	3 4 0	3 4 0	3 5 0	3 8 0	3 8 0
2 0 0	2 0 0	3 13 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
1 12 6	1 12 6	3 8 0	2 3 0	2 7 0	3 10 0	3 8 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	2 5 6	2 7 0	2 12 3	...	...	...	4 3 6	4 5 6
}	...	...	4 11 0 to 3 5 6	4 11 0 to 5 5 6	6 2 0	4 7 0	4 0 0	5 0 0	3 1 0 to 3 6 0	3 1 0

STANDARD SEERS.

TIL OR JINJILI SEED.			SUGAR (RAW).			COTTON, CLEANED.			JUTE.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
14 0	4 0 0	4 4 0	4 9 0	4 9 0	5 0 0	16 0 0	17 0 0	17 8 0	4 8 0	0	5 0 0
...	...	...	4 10 0	5 0 0	4 5 0	17 0 0	16 0 0	17 0 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 8 0	5 0 0	4 6 0	17 0 0	17 0 0	20 0 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 12 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	2 11 0	2 13 0	4 14 0
...	...	...	5 8 0	5 8 0	4 8 0	...	...	...	3 0 0	2 12 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	6 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 0 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	5 4 0	5 4 0	4 8 0	14 0 0	14 8 0	13 8 0	...	...	...
3 9 0	3 9 0	3 14 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	2 12 0	2 12 0	3 0 0
...	...	...	3 5 6	3 5 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	3 12 0	4 0 0	...	15 0 0	14 0 0	16 0 0	...	...	...
3 10 6	3 14 0	4 3 0	5 12 0	5 12 0	4 14 0	24 8 0	24 8 0	20 8 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 11 0	{ 4 11 0 to 5 0 0 }	{ 4 3 3 to 4 11 0 }	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	...	...	...

GHI (CLARIFIED BUTTER).			TOBACCO LEAF.			HIDES (COW).			GRAM.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
33 0 0	33 0 0	28 0 0	7 0 0	6 8 0	7 0 0	240-0-0 per 100 pieces.	240-0-0 per 100 pieces.	250-0-0 per 100 pieces.	7 0 0	6 4 0	6 0 0
30 0 0	30 0 0	26 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 0 0	33 0 0	32 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 8 0	Uncleaned hides, per piece -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	...	...
40 0 0	38 0 0	29 0 0	6 4 0	6 8 0	6 12 0	Cleaned hides, per piece -	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	...	...
41 0 0	38 0 0	29 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	8 0 0	to 2 4 0	to 2 4 0	to 2 6 0	...	...	...
31 0 0	30 0 0	27 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	7	6	8
35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	6 8 0	6 8 0	7 8 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	27 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 0 0
40 0 0	40 0 0	35 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	12 0 0	per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	...	...	...
24 0 0	26 0 0	22 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	18 0 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
27 18 5	26 10 6	22 13 9	10 0 0	10 0 0	11 7 0	per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	...	...	...
32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	7 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 8 0	33 0 0	30 8 0	6 0 0	7 0 0	4 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	22 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
36 10 0	26 10 0	26 10 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	per maund.	per maund.	per kahan.	per kahan.	per kahan.	per kahan.
32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	1 4 0	1 4 0	2 0 0	0 3 4	0 3 4	0 4 0
						per piece.	per piece.	per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	per maund.

the undermentioned Mats of Bengal on the 15th March 1898.

STRAW.			JUAR STALKS.			PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 STANDARD SEERS.									MATS.
						IRON.			FIREWOOD.			SALT.			
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	...	...	...	6 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	8 7 0	8 7 0	8 10 0	1. Calcutta.
per kahan.															Panga.
8 0	4 8 0	6 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	8 6 0	8 6 0	8 7 0	2. Bardwan.
per kahan.															Crushed
8 0	1 8 0	2 0 0	...	...	...	4 4 0	4 4 0	4 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 9 0	3 10 0	3 15 0	3. Midnapore.
per kahan.						4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0				3 7 0	3 7 0	3 12 0	Crushed.
0 0	1 0 0	0 10 0	...	...	...	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 13 0	3 13 0	0 4 2 0	4. Rohna.
per maund.															Panga.
7	6	8	...	...	...	6 8 0	6 8 0	6 0 0	0 8 0	0 9 0	0 0 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 2 0	5. Rangpur.
bundles per rupee.															
...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 8 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 12 0	3 11 0	0 4 0 0	6. Dacca.
...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 4 0	...	...	...	3 12 0	3 12 0	0 4 8 0	7. Chittagong.
5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0	...	...	...	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	0 3 10 0	8. Patna.
per maund.															Panga.
...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	0 3 10 0	9. Munshigunge.
...	...	...	...	...	...	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	0 5 2 0	0 6 4 0	0 4 0	3 12 0	3 14 0	0 3 14 0	10. Bhagalpur.
10 0	2 10 0	2 10 0	...	...	...	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 1 0	3 2 0	0 3 6 0	11. Cuttack.
per kahan.															
No fixed rate.			...	...	...	5 11 0	5 11 0	5 8 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	4 2 0	4 2 0	0 4 7 0	12. Rancha.
															Panga

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt of Bengal.

Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from
13th to 19th March 1898

Month.	Date.	Maximum in sun.	Number of hours of bright sunshine.	Mean pressure barometer at 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.				HYGROMETRY.				WIND.		Rain.	WEATHER.
					Mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Mean wet bulb.	Vapour tension.	Dew point.	Humidity.	Prevailing direction.	Miles recorded.		
1898.				Inches.						Inches.		%			Inches.	
March	13th	146.3	9.5	29.853	79.1	93.6	27.1	66.5	69.3	0.586	63.4	64	WNW and calm	42	Nil	Clear, =
"	14th	146.8	9.4	78.4	79.3	94.1	26.5	67.4	69.4	0.589	63.6	63	W, WSW, and calm.	60	"	Clear, =
"	15th	149.1	9.8	76.0	82.6	93.2	27.4	71.2	72.6	0.67	67.2	65	SW, WSW, and W.	108	"	Clear, =
"	16th	148.9	9.7	723	83.6	99.1	28.9	70.2	71.2	0.596	64.9	68	SW and WNW	111	"	Clear, =
"	17th	148.8	9.6	754	83.7	99.2	31.0	63.2	69.8	0.544	61.3	53	SW and WNW	102	"	Clear, =
"	18th	148.9	8.6	782	84.8	99.2	28.0	71.2	70.3	0.516	61.5	45	SW and W	93	"	Clear, =
"	19th	150.3	9.2	729	84.3	100.1	29.0	71.1	72.3	0.633	65.6	54	SW and WNW	116	"	Clear, =

The mean pressure of the seven days ...

The average pressure of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office ...

Inches.

29.776

The total number of hours of bright sunshine ...

Hours

65.8

The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine ...

83.9

The mean temperature of the seven days ...

82.6

The average temperature of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office ...

80.6

The extreme variation of temperature ...

33.6

The maximum temperature ...

100.1

The highest velocity of the wind in one hour ...

Miles

12

The mean relative humidity ...

%

57

The average relative humidity of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office ...

65

The total fall of rain from 13th to 19th March 1898 ...

Inches.

Nil.

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office ...

0.13

The total fall from 1st January to 19th March 1898 ...

0.36

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office ...

2.41

The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph, and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are obtained from self-registering thermometers. All the thermometers are verified and the readings have been corrected to a standard constructed and verified at the Kew Observatory. They are exposed under a thatched shed open at the sides, and are suspended four feet above the ground.

The barometer readings are corrected approximately to those of the standard, Newman's No. 86, formerly at the Surveyor-General's Office.

The hygrometric elements are obtained from Tables III, IV, and V of the official tables computed at the Meteorological Office, and based on Regnault's modifications of August's formula.

The directions and the movement of the wind are taken from the trace of a Beckley's anemograph. The mouth of the rain-gauge is one foot above the ground.

=, fog; Δ, dew.

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 18th to 19th March 1898.

Month.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.					HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.	
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.		Humidity at 10 A.M.
1898.		Inches.	°		°				Inches.	°	%	Inches
March	13th	29.934	81.8	95.7	28.8	66.9	88.3	69.8	.549	61.3	48	Nil.
"	14th	.894	82.4	98.0	27.3	68.7	83.2	74.5	.739	70.2	64	"
"	15th	.818	85.4	99.0	27.2	71.8	85.6	74.5	.708	68.8	68	"
"	16th	.794	85.4	100.0	29.2	70.8	88.6	70.6	.508	59.4	38	"
"	17th	.827	84.7	100.0	30.6	69.4	91.4	69.6	.484	55.1	30	"
"	18th	.857	85.8	100.3	28.9	71.8	90.6	72.1	.540	61.2	37	"
"	19th	.800	86.4	101.0	29.3	71.7	89.6	74.1	.635	65.8	46	"

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.846

The mean temperature of the seven days ° 84.5

The extreme variation of temperature ° 34.1

The maximum temperature ° 101.0

The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days % 46

The total fall of rain from 13th to 19th March 1898 Inches. Nil.

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 21st March 1898.

C. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 19th March 1898, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 19TH MARCH 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 20TH MARCH 1897.		
			Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
			No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	...	...	454	2,87,410	3,123	370	31,255	1,363
Jute	...	...	120	48,525	760	37	20,740	348
Firewood	...	...	78	78,150	1,087	147	93,775	1,862
Other articles	...	...	722	2,10,975	2,604	886	2,48,705	3,748
Total	...	...	1,374	6,20,060	7,574	1,440	4,44,475	6,821

(a) Increase is due to traffic having been abnormally low last year.
(b) Includes 2,070 miles of ballast trains run on open line.
(c) " 1,410 " " " " " "

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 5th March 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. c.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	25,760	14,464 0 0	2,22,670 0	1,572 0 0	265 0 0	23,122 0 0	2,727	4,867	7,594
Or per mile of railway ...	90'47	50'58	817'03	55'98	1'35	80'55	9'53	16'81	26'34
For previous 8 weeks of half-year(s) ...	214,018	1,28,783 0 0	18,28,098 0	67,966 0 0	2,855 0 0	2,00,604 0 0	26,273	34,178	60,451
Total for 9 weeks ...	239,778	1,43,246 0 0	20,51,768 0	70,538 0 0	4,240 0 0	2,23,716 0 0	28,000	38,986	66,986
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	27,194	17,280 0 0	1,44,788 0	9,766 0 0	283 0 0	27,538 0 0	4,144	6,887	10,481
Per mile of railway correspond- week of previous year ...	78'14	49'87	498'17	37'10	0'89	77'86	11'91	17'00	29'51
Total for corresponding date of previous year ...	194,094	1,14,848 0 0	16,11,654 0	65,634 0 0	4,708 0 0	2,04,948 0 0	38,381	67,037	105,418

(c) Includes audited figures up to week ending 5th February 1898.

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 5TH MARCH 1898.			RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 6TH MARCH 1897.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 3RD MARCH 1898.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1896 TO 6TH MARCH 1897.			Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease in 1898.
Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	
286	Rs. 23,122	Rs. 80'55	280	Rs. 27,538	Rs. 77'56	286	Rs. 9,34,323	...	300	Rs. 6,23,230	...	Rs. 3,14,073	...

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate earnings for the week ending 12th March 1898	...	...	Rs. 15,740	A. P. 0 0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	20,211	15 6
Decrease	...	...	4,471	15 6
Receipts per mile for the week ending 12th March 1898	...	...	808	10 0
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897	...	...	396	6 0
Decrease	...	...	87	11 0
Receipts from 1st January to 12th March 1898	...	...	1,10,087	0 0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	1,19,256	0 0
Decrease	...	...	9,168	0 0



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

[Non-Subscribers to the GAZETTE may receive the SUPPLEMENT separately on payment of Six Rupees per annum if delivered in Calcutta, or Twelve Rupees if sent by Post.]

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Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 19th March, 1898.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.
 The Hon'ble W. H. GRIMLEY.
 The Hon'ble H. H. RISLEY, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble RAI DURGA GATI BANERJEA BAHADUR, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble J. PRATT.
 The Hon'ble NAWAB SYUD AMBER HOSSEIN, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.
 The Hon'ble W. B. OLDHAM, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble R. B. BUCKLEY.
 The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. C. TURNER.
 The Hon'ble NORENDRA NATH SEN.
 The Hon'ble KALI CHARAN BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble MAHARAJA BAHADUR SIR LUCHMESSUR SINGH, G.C.I.E., of Darbhanga.
 The Hon'ble SURENDRANATH BANERJEE.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MESSRS. OLDHAM and BUCKLEY took their seats in Council.

AMENDMENT OF THE BENGAL TENANCY ACT, VIII OF 1885.

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885. He said:—

"The Report is very brief and has been unanimously agreed to by all the Members of the Select Committee. The Report, with the amended Bill, will be published in the Calcutta Gazette on Wednesday next, and on this day fortnight I propose to ask the Council to take the clauses of the Bill into consideration and to pass the Bill. I will not occupy the time of the Council in reading the Select Committee's Report, which explains itself."

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RISLEY moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to the Municipal affairs of the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and to authorize the extension of the same to the Town of Howrah. He said:—

"I have the honour to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend Bengal Act II of 1888—the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act. As I shall have to explain at some length the provisions of the Bill which extends to nearly 700 sections and makes large changes in the present law, I may dismiss the early history of the subject with a few words. Municipal government in Calcutta dates from 1840. In that year the town was divided into four divisions, and the Government was empowered, on the application of two-thirds of the rate-payers in any division, to entrust to them the assessment, collection and management of the rates on a scheme to be approved by Government. But this self-working system never worked, for not a single application was made to Government under the Act. There followed experiments with seven Commissioners, with four and with three. The last of the series deserve to be remembered as the originators of the drainage scheme. In 1861 a sort of federal system was proposed by a Committee presided over by Mr. Seton-Karr, but the scheme was not accepted, and two years later the Municipal Commissioners were superseded by the Justices of the Peace working under Act VI of 1863. Further legislation on a variety of points followed, and by the end of 1874 the municipal government of Calcutta was regulated by no fewer than 14 Acts. The attempt to consolidate these resulted ultimately in the passing of Bengal Act IV of 1876, which created an elective Corporation. The constitutional provisions of this Act were repeated with no very material alterations in the present law.

"Bengal Act II of 1888 has now been in force since the 1st April 1889, or nearly nine years. During that time it has, I believe, given rise to more doubt and difficulty as to its construction and operation than any Act that has been passed by this Council. It has been condemned on material points by the Courts, by the many learned Counsel who have advised on its interpretation, and by most of the officers who have had to do with its working. Suggestions for the amendment of the Act were made as long ago as 1891, but Sir Charles Elliott was reluctant to undertake a task of such magnitude except under pressure of the strongest necessity. In 1895 a partial amendment was decided on with the object of enabling the Commissioners to realise license-tax from certain companies which under the present law escape assessment. Subsequently the Corporation represented that section 237 of the Act was defective in so far as it afforded no means of exercising effective control over the rebuilding of houses and material alterations in their structure and urged the necessity of immediate legislation.

"While the Bill making the necessary changes in the law was being put into shape it was reported that a case of plague had occurred in Howrah, and the Medical Board, now the Plague Commission, was appointed for the purpose of checking the spread of the disease. In exercise of the powers then delegated to them the Board deputed six Medical Officers to make a sanitary survey of the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta with reference to certain points

indicated for enquiry. The reports of these officers disclosed an appalling state of things, but I do not propose to drag the Council through all this mire. I will merely read a summary which omits the detailed horrors of the reports:—

- I.—*Overcrowded and badly built houses.*—In many parts of the town and suburbs they found that both pukka houses and bustee huts were dangerously overcrowded, and were built in a manner which rendered proper ventilation and efficient conservancy almost impossible.
- II.—*Defects of public latrines.*—The public latrines and urinals were in many cases faulty in construction; they were imperfectly cleaned and their number was insufficient to justify even a limited application of the penal provisions of the law in regard to nuisances.
- III.—*Defects of private latrines.*—The private latrines were in many cases so constructed that they could not be properly cleaned, nor could the conservancy officers get access to them; and consequently many of them were choked with accumulations of filth.
- IV.—*State of house-drains and down-pipes.*—The house-drains and down-pipes were in many cases broken, choked, and out of repair.
- V.—*State of surface drains.*—The surface drains were blocked with foul matter, latrines were allowed to discharge into them, and the drains themselves were often used as latrines.
- VI.—*Neglect of road scavenging.*—The scavenging of the roads was imperfectly carried out; the staff was inadequate for the work; and the subsoil had become dangerously polluted.
- VII.—*State of compounds and courtyards.*—The condition of the compounds and courtyards of houses was in many cases extremely filthy.
- VIII.—*Pollution of wells.*—Wells in courtyards were contaminated by the percolation of sewage impurities from the soil.
- IX.—*State of cowsheds and stables.*—Cowsheds and stables were situated in thickly populated places; their construction was faulty; they were greatly overcrowded, and their flooring was soaked with sewage which polluted the wells on the premises.
- X.—*State of hackney carriage stands.*—The number of hackney carriage stands was wholly insufficient to meet the current requirements of the town, and they were imperfectly flushed and cleansed.
- XI.—*Condition of bustees.*—Most bustees were badly drained and imperfectly ventilated; the huts were too close together; the latrine arrangements led to the pollution of the soil; the roads and lanes were too narrow, and conservancy was imperfectly carried out.

“On these reports the Chamber of Commerce observed in a letter signed by the late Mr. Clarke—

‘No one can rise from even a cursory perusal of these Reports without having the conviction forced upon the mind that there exist in Calcutta conditions of insanitation which constitute a permanent and standing threat against the health of the inhabitants and the prosperity of the city. This would be sufficiently serious if it concerned Calcutta alone, but the Committee cannot blind themselves to the position which Calcutta occupies with respect to the rest of the Province and to India generally. It is in a special sense the point to which all classes throughout the country are attracted, and from which they are dispersed over immense areas, either in the pursuit of business, or in obedience to the impulses of religion. Further, the enormous and widely distributed trade of the city makes the health of the inhabitants a matter of constant interest over almost the whole of the world. When viewed in this manner, the state of the city, as disclosed by the Report of the Medical Boards, calls for more than the attention of the Municipal Commission entrusted with the ordinary care of the city: it is a matter which concerns not only the Government of Bengal, but the Supreme Government, and it is sure, the Committee think, to attract very special notice in England, as well as in other countries.’

“The description given by the Sanitary Officers of the condition of parts of Calcutta was borne out by the personal observation of the members of the Board,

all of whom, with the exception of the native member, who was in bad health, visited the streets and houses, the conservancy of which had been most conspicuously neglected. The reports were also confirmed in the fullest detail and supplemented in innumerable similar instances by the reports and evidence of Dr. Banks, who had large experience of practical sanitation as Civil Medical Officer of Puri, and was for this reason selected by the Lieutenant-Governor for the post of the Chief Superintendent of Conservancy in Calcutta, a temporary appointment, the Chamber observed, sanctioned by the Commissioners early in October, 1896.

"These evils are no new things in Calcutta. They had for the most part been discovered, although not so fully set forth, by Mr. Beverley's Commission in 1884. But they are a far greater danger to the town now than they were then. For in the meantime the relations of Calcutta to the commercial world at large have been drawn materially closer, and the sanitary condition of the city attracts and promises to continue to attract the critical attention of foreign nations to a large and increasing extent. This is due to two causes,—the great extension of communications which has taken place throughout the world and which as Bombay, the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces now know only too well facilitates the conveyance of infectious disease from one country to another, and the growth of the science of bacteriology which traces disease to microscopic organisms and seeks to ascertain the conditions which govern the development of these organisms and their transmission from place to place. A glance at the proceedings of the recent Sanitary Conventions of Geneva, Paris and Venice will show the importance of what may I may venture to call international hygiene and the prominent part that is played in it by scientific experts. Diplomacy and science are now working hand in hand towards certain practical ends. On the one hand they are disposed to modify the earlier ideas on the subject of quarantine which reflect the crude notions of the middle ages on the subject of the transmission of disease. But on the other they do so only subject to certain express conditions. They demand the production of accurate statistics of mortality, and they insist on the effective maintenance of a modern standard of sanitation. Failing these, foreign powers will assuredly enforce quarantine or its modern equivalent as stringently as the Italian Maritime Republics of the 15th century, and will be hampered by even fewer scruples as to the damage that may be inflicted on their greatest commercial rival. In the face of these tendencies and of the facts set forth by the Sanitary Officers, it is essential for us to put our house in order, and the first step necessary is to revise the present Act throughout, so as in the first place to provide the town with a responsible municipal executive, and in the next place to furnish this executive with a law adequate to the sanitary requirements of the present day and the condition of Calcutta as it now is. It follows further that as the interests threatened are in the first instance those of the foreign trade, not of Calcutta only, but of the whole of Northern India and Assam, the time has come for the representatives of the commercial community to take an active part in the administration of the city. I say in the first instance advisedly, for there is no interest in Calcutta that must not stand or fall with the commerce of the town. Commerce has made Calcutta: when commerce deserts it, house property will dwindle in value, lawyers will lose their clients, schools their pupils, and Calcutta will become a city of the dead like Bruges or Rave na, or the once famous Cinque Ports.

"And to say that there must be a change in the constitution of the Municipality does not necessarily imply any reflection on the work done in the past by the Commissioners or their executive. It means merely this, that the constitution introduced in 1876, and maintained in all essentials in 1888, fails to meet the wants of the present day. Times have changed since then; the municipal constitution must change accordingly.

"In point of fact, as His Honour the President observed in his statement on the opening of this session, 'under the present law there is no municipal constitution at all in the proper sense of the word. Everything is fluid and indefinite. The Act vests in the Commissioners all powers, whether they are such as a large deliberative body can properly exercise or not; but it allows the Chairman to exercise all the powers vested in the Commissioners,

except those reserved to the Commissioners in meeting, subject to such limitations and conditions as may be imposed, before or after he has acted under this power, by a resolution of the Commissioners. It further confers an unlimited power of controlling the Chairman by the action of Committees. By thus failing clearly to define the powers of the executive, the Act renders it impossible to say as regards any given matter in what part of the Corporation the executive resides, or indeed whether there is any executive at all. The consequences have been, what might have been expected, a complete breakdown of the conservancy of the town at a critical period, and serious confusion in other departments of the municipal administration, without the possibility of determining with any approach to certainty where the responsibility for such a state of things lies.

"The cause of this uncertainty, the great flaw in the present Act, is to be found in section 61. By section 61 the Chairman may exercise all the powers vested by the Act in the Commissioners, save such as are expressly reserved to the Commissioners in meeting. But he cannot act in opposition to, or in contravention of, any orders passed by the Commissioners at a meeting, and if any order already passed by him is brought before a meeting and modified or disapproved, he has to modify or cancel his action accordingly. Under sections 63-64 there comes the General Committee, which deals with Budget and Finance and such other business as may be referred to it by the Corporation or does not lie within the sphere of any other Committee. When the Chairman and the majority of the General Committee concur, and inconvenience is likely to arise from delay, action can be taken in anticipation of the confirmation of a General Meeting, but not otherwise. Under section 65 the Commissioners may appoint any other Committees, either standing or special, and consisting of so many members as they may think fit for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting upon any matter connected with the conservancy or improvement of Calcutta not assigned by the Act or by the vote of the Commissioners in meeting to the General Committee, or for the purpose of advising or aiding the Chairman or Vice-Chairman in the discharge of any portion of the duties exercisable by them under section 61, which, in the discretion of the Commissioners, would be better regulated or managed with the aid of such Committee. The Chairman and the majority of a Committee, if in accord, have the same power as the General Committee of anticipating the action of a General Meeting.

"Now in 1895-96 there were the following Standing Committees under section 65:—

- (1) the Bye-laws Committee with 9 members;
- (2) the Loans Committee with 9 members;
- (3) the Hackney Carriage Committee with 6 members.

"These subjects did not apparently interest the Commissioners greatly, and the Committees were comparatively small; but as we go on we find—

- (4) the Water-supply Extension Committee with 31 members;
- (5) the Busti and Town Improvement Committee with 38 members;
- (6) the Suburban Improvement Committee with 21 members;
- (7) the Roads, Buildings, Conservancy and Tramways Committee with 48 members;
- (8) the Complaints Committee with 33 members.

"In paragraph 31 of the Annual Report of the Commissioners for 1895-96, it was observed: 'In connection with these Committees two important changes were made, viz., practically the appointment to a Committee of every member who cared to serve on it, instead of the number being limited to 24 or 26 as in previous years; and secondly, a resolution which was passed by the Committee that in future members of the various Standing Committees be appointed for one year only.' The pressure of members to be on some of these Committees was so great that in the end every Commissioner who desired to be on a Committee had to be let in. It is true that in May 1896, when it was found that many of the Committee members only attended when they had cases to press in which they were interested, the Commissioners again limited the numbers on the Chief Committees to 24, on the Hackney Carriages and Bye-laws Committees

to 9, and on the Loans Committee to 6, but this reform was only carried by 3 votes, 26 members voting for it against 23 who preferred unlimited Committees. Since then the numbers on the chief Committees have been reduced to 15 and those on the minor Committees to 6 or 9. But even now they are too large and who will venture to say that they may not in future be raised?

"It may be said that the existence of some, at any rate, of these Committees is necessary for the purpose of considering proposals involving contracts the subject-matter of which exceeds Rs. 1,000 in value, of recommending expenditure, of whatever amount, that is not included in the Budget, and of dealing with matters reserved for the decision of the Commissioners in meeting either by the Act or by sanctioned rules or bye-laws. But the Act itself—so vague and defective is it—imposes no such restrictions on the purposes for which Committees may be appointed any more than it limits the number of members who may serve on them, and leaves it open to the Commissioners to intervene in any question or class of questions, whether within the legitimate functions of the executive or not. The machinery for such intervention is to be found in the Complaints Committee, the formation of which was described by Sir Henry Harrison in 1890 as a thoroughly unsound move, emanating from the wish of the Commissioners to concentrate in their hands all power, instead of merely the legitimate power of administration. He foretold, when the Committee was constituted, that they would find no field for their operations in the direction of bringing to light complaints which had received no attention, but that they would degenerate into a mere appellate tribunal from the orders of responsible municipal officers, after they had enquired into cases. This was precisely what happened. It was very soon found that the Committee took two months to dispose of a single complaint, while such complaints came in at the rate of twenty a day, and hence an order was passed that it should only have jurisdiction in the case of complaints referred to it by the Chairman or by some Commissioner. 'The result (said Sir Henry Harrison) has been the creation of an executive appellate tribunal of the worst type. Ordinary persons, who are more likely to need redress, cannot get access to it; it is reserved for a few favoured individuals who have influence enough with some Commissioner to get their case referred to it; that is, for the very persons who would be sure to receive adequate attention independently of any such Committee. Most of the more reasonable and experienced Commissioners fight shy of the Committee, whose operations have consequently fallen into the hands of other and younger men who are, among the whole body of the Commissioners, perhaps the most incompetent to exercise the functions they aspire to.'

"Summing up the result of these sections they come to this: The Chairman as such has virtually no powers under the Act. Whatever he does he does on sufferance with the knowledge that the power he has ventured to use may be withdrawn from him by resolution, or that the action which he has taken may be upset with retrospective effect. Let any one consider what this means in the light of the following remarks of Sir Henry Harrison, as fair and sympathetic a witness as it is possible to cite:—

'The rôle which the elective Commissioners for the native wards have at once assumed is precisely that of checking, watching and controlling in every way, in seeing either that no expenditure is incurred without sufficient reason, or that projects of improvement are not undertaken which cannot be fully justified. They have in fact been the brake-power in the municipal train. But a train cannot progress by brake-power alone, nor can a city thrive by opposition alone. It is also necessary that you should have motive power, and this is precisely the one point in which the Corporation has been deficient. The motive power has been too weak, while the opposition power has been very strong.'

"The Chairman has the brake-power always against him. He has to convince an adverse majority on a number of Committees which are appointed only for one year and may consist from time to time of different members. Every case he deals with he may have to deal with twice over—once in order to settle what is to be done, and once again perhaps a week or a month later in order to convince an adverse Committee that he has done the right thing. A law under which such a state of things is possible obviously fails to discriminate between the true functions of the Corporation as a representative body exercising general and especially financial control, and the duties of their Executive in

giving effect to the positive provisions of the law in matters of conservancy and practical municipal work. No reasonable being can suppose that an executive, hampered by the possibility of interference by any one of a series of multifarious Committees, and watched by a Complaints Committee which any grievance-monger can set in action, can administer successfully the affairs of a great city. The Chairman may rise superior to these difficulties, and by dint of personal influence cause the unworkable to work, but how about his subordinates? Can you expect good subordinates under such a system? Can you expect men whose appointments depend on the will—it may be the caprice—of the brakesmen to be very zealous in obeying the orders of the engine-driver? Can you look, in short, for any thing but doubt, hesitation and general paralysis in the action of the Executive?

“A further defect in the working of the present Act is the practical exclusion of European men of business from all share in the municipal government of Calcutta. This is the more serious in the case of a heterogeneous community where the European minority control the commercial interests to which the town owes its existence, and realise very clearly the extent to which the prosperity of those interests depends on the sanitary condition of the town. It is, however, by no means a thing of today. The Calcutta merchants, who serve readily and do excellent work on the Port Trust, have always held aloof from municipal affairs. Even in the days of the Justices men of business in Calcutta could not find time to take part in the interminable debates of a large talking body, but were content to leave the affairs of the town to be controlled by the Chairman, whose executive power had not then been whittled away by the action of Committees. In 1876, when the introduction of the elective system was under consideration, the Select Committee appointed to frame a constitution for the town fully recognised the peculiar character of the community they had to deal with, and the necessity of bringing into their scheme the principle of special aptitude and special interest as opposed to that of numerical equality. They proposed that out of the 54 members to be elected, 27 should be Hindus, 9 Muhammadans and 18 Europeans, Eurasians, Armenians, Jews, &c., while of the 18 to be nominated, 9 should be Hindus or Muhammadans and 9 persons of other nationalities. This proposal did not satisfy the non-official Europeans, one of whose representatives in the Council, Mr. Brookes, considered the proportion of Europeans too small for efficiency, and suggested that the number should be raised to 25. The Committee's scheme was rejected, not in consequence of Mr. Brookes's objection, but in deference to the views of the Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal, who, while admitting the existence in the city of a varied community with conflicting interests, urged that the system of proportional representation would be inelastic and would prevent Hindus from electing Europeans as their representatives. ‘It might be said that the larger number of rate-payers being Hindus, they would flood or swamp the Corporation; that was to say, the majority of persons elected would probably be Hindus, and that other sections of the community would be overridden. He did not think that that would be the case. For his own part, he thought that the Hindus were well aware that they had to learn a good deal from Europeans, and that in the matter of municipal management they by themselves could not do much. United with Europeans, they could do a great deal, but single-handed the Hindus were too weak. So he did not believe that the result would be in the direction apprehended.’

“In illustration of this I would ask the attention of the Council to the Statements A, B and C which I lay on the table. Statement A illustrates the comparative representation of the chief nationalities in Calcutta as it stood in 1882 under Bengal Act IV of 1876 and in 1895 under the present law. It will be seen that the proportion of Hindus among elected members has declined from 61·6 to 61·6, and on the main body of elected and nominated Commissioners from 52·7 to 52. They still, therefore, have an absolute majority in the Corporation, while on the General Committee they compose 66·6 per cent.—the same proportion as in 1882. In so far, then, as it was the intention of sections 8 and 63 of the Act to reduce this undue preponderance, those provisions appear to have proved futile.

“The percentage of Muhammadans has risen on the Corporation from 11·1 to 17·3 and on the General Committee from 10 to 16·6. This result,

which is largely due to the Government having, at the instance of the Chairman, nominated six Muhammadans in 1895, is in itself by no means a matter for regret. But the gain of the Muhammadans is more than counterbalanced by the decline in the proportion of Europeans and Eurasians from 31.9 to 26.8 in the Corporation and from 20 per cent. to 5.6 per cent. on the General Committee. A comparison of the figures for Natives (Hindus and Muhammadans) with Europeans, Eurasians, Parsis, Jews and Armenians, brings out even more striking results. The percentage of Natives in the Corporation has risen since 1882 from 63.9 to 69.5, and on the General Committee from 76.6 to 83.3, while the proportion of other nationalities has fallen in the Corporation from 36.1 to 30.1 and on the General Committee from 23.4 to 16.7.

"Statement B shows the composition of the Municipality according to profession. Lawyers, who had 21 seats out of 72 in 1882, have 27 seats in 1895, Hindu lawyers having gained 6 seats. The number of land and house-owners has fallen from 17 to 12; while the merchants and traders, admittedly under-represented in 1882, had the same number of seats in 1895 as in 1882, although the commercial interest in the municipal administration had advanced rather than declined during the period.

"Statement C is based upon the statistics of the ward elections of 1895. It shows that the registered electors amount to only 2 per cent. of the total population of Calcutta; that the Hindus, who are only 66 per cent. of the population, have 73.3 per cent. of the registered electors and 69.5 per cent. of the voting power; and that Muhammadans, who form 29 per cent. of the population, contribute only 10.5 per cent. of the electorate, and exercise only 9 per cent. of the voting power. On the other hand, a comparison of Statements A and C brings out that the Hindus with 69.5 per cent. of the voting power secured in 1895 only 61.6 per cent. of the seats, while Europeans with 18.5 per cent. of the voting power got 23.3 per cent. of the elected Commissioners, and the Muhammadans with only 9 per cent. of the aggregate voting power succeeded in electing 13.4 per cent. of the ward members.

"In whatever way the figures may be combined and analysed, they demonstrate how conspicuously the elective principle has failed to fulfil the expectations held out by Kristo Das Pal, that the Hindu rate-payers would often choose European Commissioners, and therefore that precautions to guard against other sections of the community being overridden were unnecessary. They show further how, under the system introduced in 1876, not only do Hindus and Muhammadans command an overwhelming majority, but Hindus alone outnumber on the Corporation all other nationalities put together and outnumber them much more decisively on the General Committee. The municipal government of Calcutta has in fact passed into the hands of the educated Hindus. The Europeans, who ought to have a predominant influence in the affairs of the town, cannot be induced to take part in the general meetings of the Commissioners, where they consider, rightly or wrongly, that time is wasted in debate and where they could not hope to command more than an insignificant minority. They prefer to stand aside and make themselves felt through the Chamber of Commerce, the Jute Association, the Health Society or some other public body which every now and then puts forward some very general proposal with an imperfect knowledge of the facts, and no knowledge at all of the difficulties, financial and administrative, involved in the sanitation of a large Asiatic city. It is one of the greatest evils of the existing state of things that among the various critics of the Corporation those who are most interested in the questions at issue and best able to make themselves heard should at the same time be the worst informed as to the evils that exist, and the least responsible as regards the possible remedies for them. I am not prepared to blame the merchants and tradesmen of Calcutta for the rôle they have adopted, but it is a fatal defect in the law under which the town is administered that it compels the really influential Europeans among the non-official community practically to cut themselves off from municipal work.

"Having thus explained, I fear at unavoidable length, the general reason for legislation, I turn now to the provisions of the Bill.

"We hope to pass the Bill early next cold weather, so that it may come into force by the 1st April, 1899. Section 1 (3) accordingly provides for the

appointment of the new General Committee in time to take up its duties when the Bill comes into force. Over the definitions I need not linger, as I shall refer to them, so far as may be necessary, in explaining the substantive sections to which they relate.

"PART II.—CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

"The Bill leaves untouched the number of the Commissioners and the methods of electing and appointing them; it does not propose to alter the franchise, nor does it reconstruct the present arrangement of wards. But it provides the Corporation with an efficient executive, and interposes a small working Committee between the Chairman and the main body of the Commissioners. The functions of these three authorities—the Corporation, the General Committee, and the Chairman—are precisely defined and carefully distinguished in the Bill. The management of a great city such as Calcutta involves questions of far-reaching importance, and without extensive powers of control resting in the hands of the responsible Chairman and of the Government, it is unreasonable to expect good results from any form of municipal administration. The Bill, therefore, abandons the system followed in the previous Acts, of vesting the entire municipal government in the Commissioners, with permission to the Chairman to exercise such powers of the Commissioners, not being expressly reserved to the Commissioners in meeting, as they may not withdraw from him by resolution, and subject to such conditions as they may lay down. It provides for three municipal authorities—the Corporation, the General Committee, and the Chairman assisted by the Deputy Chairman, who will act only under the Chairman's orders. All powers conferred by the Bill are distributed among these authorities, with reference to their assumed fitness to exercise them, in the manner shown section by section throughout. To the Corporation are reserved the right of fixing the rates of taxation and all those general functions which can be efficiently performed by a large body, provision being at the same time made against the contingency of their deliberations impeding the transaction of necessary business. Following the Bombay Act the Bill (section 24) vests the entire executive power in the Chairman to be exercised either independently or subject to the approval or sanction of the Corporation or General Committee wherever this is expressly so directed. The General Committee stands between the deliberative and the executive authorities, and deals with those matters which by their nature are ill-adapted for discussion by the Corporation, and yet are too important to be left to be disposed of by the Chairman alone. Power is also taken for the General Committee to appoint Sub-Committees either from their own body or from the general body of the Commissioners on which it is hoped all the real workers among the Commissioners will be utilised, whether they are members of the General Committee or not. Proceeding on these principles, section 5 enumerates the municipal authorities, while section 23 defines their respective functions and provides for a reference to the Local Government in case of doubt arising. Sections 6 and 7 define the constitution of the Corporation, which, as I have said, will remain unchanged.

"The scheme for the appointment of the General Committee in equal proportions by (a) the elected Commissioners voting by groups of wards, (b) the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades Association, and the Port Commissioners, (c) the Government, is based on the principle of giving adequate representation on the working body of the Municipality to the three chief interests in Calcutta—to the European commercial community which has made the town a centre of trade; to the Government which has made it the capital of the Indian Empire, and is responsible to the world at large for its sufficient and progressive municipal administration; and lastly to the residents, house-owners, and ground landlords, regarding the last of whom Sir Henry Harrison observed in 1890 that the value of their property had been increased two-hundredfold by the creation and maintenance of Calcutta as a commercial capital. Once admit, as every reasonable man must admit, that the commercial community, and more especially the European section of it, have an unquestionable right to an effective voice in the municipal government of Calcutta, there is, I believe, no practicable means of enlisting their co-operation but that which is now

put forward. Even if the Government were prepared to go behind the decision arrived at in 1876, and introduce the principle of proportional representation of nationalities into the election of the main body of the Corporation, it is doubtful whether that would induce the leaders of the mercantile and trading community to take an active part in the debates of a large body, where organization and manipulation of votes would be needed to secure any real influence. Business men will work on a business Committee and will work on no other.

"For the purpose of electing four members of the General Committee under section 8, the Bill proposes to divide the twenty-five wards into the four following groups or electoral divisions, the Commissioners of each of which will elect one member from among the entire body of Municipal Commissioners:—

Name of group.		Wards comprised in group.	Population.
1		2	3
Northern Division	...	1 to 6	215,555
Central	"	7 to 11	164,328
Southern	"	12 to 19	124,059
Suburban	"	20 to 25	145,419

"This arrangement, which is based upon population, will be convenient for engineering and conservancy purposes, and will correspond more closely with the municipal needs of each division and the work to be done, than one framed with reference to area, taxation, or voting power. As each division must be composed of contiguous wards and must be of a manageable area, the scale of population cannot be made absolutely uniform; but it must be borne in mind that the population of many of the wards in the Southern and Suburban Divisions will tend to increase, while on the other hand it is one of the objects of the Bill and of the further legislation which may be found necessary to prevent overcrowding and thus reduce population in the Northern and Central Wards. I observe that a proposal to break up Calcutta into divisions for the purpose of electing the members of the General Committee who are elected by the elected Commissioners was brought forward by my friend, Babu Kally Nauth Mitter, in 1894, but was rejected as being illegal under the present law. I am glad to be able to appeal to his great authority in support of the principle of electoral divisions. That principle will, I believe, ensure the adequate representation on the General Committee of all parts of Calcutta; it will harmonise the local interests of the wards with the general interests of the town; it will place the four elected members in a very strong position as representing each a group of wards, while at the same time it will not diminish the influence of the Ward Commissioners, but will focus it and enable it to be exercised more effectively through the divisional members.

"The four seats reserved to Government will enable it not only to secure adequate representation of its own important interests in the town, but also, if need be, to provide for a Muhammadan member and to nominate at least one Commissioner as the special representative of the humbler working men of all ranks and trades who earn their livelihood in Calcutta and who are at present wholly unrepresented. As Sir Henry Harrison observed in 1885,—

'Not only do the labouring classes in Calcutta, important as their interests are, get no representation under the present system, but there are some of them who, by their dependent relation to the Municipality, especially need it. I mean those classes with whose freedom of action we are compelled, in the interests of the community at large, to interfere. Such are the residents in bustees, whom we have to displace in opening out crowded localities; the carters whom we tax first for using the streets, and then for keeping their cattle within municipal limits (there are 17,000 carts licensed in Calcutta); the *gowalas* whom we are compelled to prosecute in hundreds because they will not comply with our requirements as

regards the stabling of their cows, and who ought to be placed under much closer surveillance to prevent disease being conveyed by milk; the *dhobees*, who for the same reason ought also to be brought under sanitary regulations as soon as the Suburbs come into our hands.'

"I am confident that there will be no difficulty in finding a European or Native Commissioner who will undertake to acquaint himself with the needs and grievances of these classes and to become their representative upon the General Committee. Provision has been made in section 3 of the Bill for constituting the first General Committee as soon as the new Act comes into force, and in section 45 for holding general elections in March, 1900, when it is proposed that the body of Commissioners now about to be elected should vacate office.

"*Sub-Committees.*—Section 88 empowers the General Committee to delegate any of their powers or duties to Sub-Committees nominated by them. The numbers of these Sub-Committees are limited to six, and none of their members need be members of the General Committee. The General Committee is to fix the time within which a Sub-Committee is to report; and all the proceedings of such Committees must be confirmed by the General Committee. Under section 93 fees will be paid to members of the General Committee and of Sub-Committees.

"*The Chairman and Deputy Chairman.*—As in Bombay, the entire executive power is vested by section 20 in the Chairman subject to such express limitations as are elsewhere laid down. This will do away with the present uncertainty as to the functions of the Executive. The power of appointing the Chairman is vested in the Local Government as under the existing law, and the Bill also withdraws from the Commissioners the discretion they have hitherto exercised of fixing the Chairman's salary and house-rent allowance. A Government officer specially selected for this difficult and important post is placed in a wholly false position by the present law which makes him dependent on the good-will of the Commissioners for an addition to his pay which, owing to the great cost of living in Calcutta, is in most cases no more than is required to save him from positive loss while holding the appointment of Chairman.

"Provision has also been made for the appointment by Government of a Deputy Chairman who must ordinarily possess engineering and architectural qualifications. The new building regulations will greatly extend the duties of the Chairman, and it is essential for him to have the assistance of a competent adviser to whom he can on occasion delegate his duties.

"*Elections.*—In view of certain decisions by the High Court, and of the uncertainty that has been felt as to the interpretation of sections 19—29 of the present Act, it is thought desirable to incorporate in the substantive law a definite procedure for municipal elections, instead of leaving such matters to be dealt with by rule. The draft sections proposed are based for the most part upon sections 19—35 of the Bombay Act, but some important changes have been introduced in consultation with Mr. Bright with reference to recent experience. Thus section 43 (1) and (2) provides that persons who wish to be enrolled as voters must register their names in the Assessor's office, and must show that they have paid in their own names all rates and taxes due from them for the first two quarters of the municipal year. Section 43 (10) to (21) transfers the duty of revising the list of electors from the Chairman to a revising Magistrate who would be selected from among the Presidency Magistrates.

"*Control.* Section 22.—The section of the existing Act, conferring certain powers of control upon the Government, is framed in very general terms, and would be difficult to put in force effectively. The conditions requisite to give the Government jurisdiction to intervene are vaguely stated, and it is almost impossible to say what construction should be put upon 'complaint made,' 'general default,' and 'due enquiry.' Each of these terms would of itself give rise to a controversy.

"On the other hand the present law is unfair to the Commissioners in that it gives them no distinct right to show cause against an order, and forces the Government to take the extreme course of at once appointing some person to perform the duty alleged to be neglected, instead of calling upon the Commissioners to perform it themselves within a stated time. The section which the Bill substitutes is based upon section 64 of the Madras Act, and gives the Government as ample power of intervention as it need reserve, while at the same time

providing for a fair enquiry into the facts, and giving the Corporation sufficient opportunity for stating their view of the matters in dispute. That the Government ought to have an effective power of interference is, I imagine, incontestable.

"CHAPTER IV.—MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND SERVANTS.

"This Chapter has been framed so as to secure the following objects, which experience has shown to be essential to the efficient working of the municipal administration of Calcutta:—

- (1) To withdraw from the patronage of the Corporation the important offices of Engineer, Surveyor, Health Officer, Collector and Assessor, and other offices with a salary of Rs. 500 a month and over. The General Committee, constituted as now proposed, will be more likely to make a good selection than so large and miscellaneous a body as the Corporation, and the scandal that has been caused by the canvassing of rival candidates will be avoided. Sir Henry Harrison observed in 1890—and the remark has never been contradicted—that all the Commissioners well knew that the Municipality 'failed most conspicuously in personal questions, when each Commissioner is subjected to private solicitation and unwholesome pressure, and gives his vote under the influence of motives very few of which are consistent with the well-being of the City.'
- (2) To vest in the Chairman the selection of suitable persons to fill all offices carrying a salary of less than Rs. 300 a month, together with the power of fining, suspending and dismissing persons so appointed. To quote Sir Henry Harrison again:—'A single officer acting under a sense of responsibility would dispose of these personal questions far more equitably than the Commissioners as a body, where individual responsibility is overlaid by numbers, and the most unblushing solicitation is practised.'
- (3) To enable the Local Government to prescribe the qualifications of candidates for employment in the Health, Conservancy and Engineering Departments. I trust that this seemingly unimportant provision may prove to be the germ of a school of Sanitary Engineering which will open a new career to educated young men and will meet a very real demand.

"The title of Vice-Chairman has been changed to Controller of Municipal Accounts, which more correctly expresses the duties which in practice the present Vice-Chairman discharges.

"PART III.—FINANCE.

"The sections relating to loans reproduce the existing law and further provide at Mr. Bright's suggestion for the preparation of a Loans Budget, its consideration by the Corporation and the determination of the sums to be borrowed during the year.

"The sections dealing with the Municipal Funds are based on the corresponding sections of the Calcutta Act. Sections 103 to 144 are adapted from the Bombay Act and lay down more fully than is the case in the Calcutta Act the procedure for making payments, investing surplus funds, keeping accounts, preparing and passing the budget and auditing the accounts of the Corporation. Section 144 imposes on the Chairman the duty of remedying defects pointed out by the Auditors. Provision is made for the budget being prepared by the Chairman, revised by the General Committee and considered by the Corporation, who may refer it back to the General Committee or amend it as they think fit subject to the condition first that they must make adequate and suitable provision for essential matters, and secondly, that they must settle the budget and determine the rate of taxation between the 15th December when the budget will be circulated to individual Commissioners and the last day of February. No payment can be made by the Chairman except for purposes or works specially sanctioned or for certain emergent purposes expenditure on which must be reported. No contract for a purpose requiring the approval or sanction of some other municipal authority may be made by the Chairman without such approval or sanction. All contracts for sums between

Rs. 500 and Rs. 5,000 must be reported to the General Committee, and all contracts for sums between Rs. 5,000 and one lakh require the Committee's approval. Contracts above one lakh require the approval of Government as under the present law.

"PART IV.—TAXATION.

"Under Chapter X relating to rates the only change is the transfer of authority in purely executive matters from the Commissioners to the Chairman. No provision has been made in the Bill for levying a police rate, but the Government of India have expressly reserved the right to deal with the question by legislation, which may take the form either of levying a local rate or of charging a certain sum annually against the Municipal Fund.

"In Chapter XI dealing with the assessment of buildings and land the opportunity has been taken of defining more clearly how the annual value of *bustee* land should be determined, and permitting a building, the valuation of which has been reduced on the ground of exceptional circumstances, to be revalued when such circumstances have ceased to exist. Section 125 of the present Act has also been amplified so as to enable buildings or lands to be revalued under certain circumstances.

"Chapter XII dealing with the tax on carriages and animals contains no material change except that the executive authority is throughout reserved to the Chairman. The definition of carriage to include bicycles and tricycles, and the imposition on these of a tax of Rs. 4 a year will, I believe, add a substantial sum to the income of the Corporation.

"CHAPTER XIII.—COLLECTION OF RATES AND TAXES.

"The draft provisions contained in this part have been framed so as to adapt the Bombay procedure for collecting municipal dues to the circumstances of Calcutta. They vest all executive functions in the Chairman. Section 193, following section 202 of the Bombay Act, requires municipal dues to be paid direct into the Municipal Office—a system which has been tried with success in some mufassal Municipalities in Bengal.

"Chapter XIV and Schedule III embody the amendments rendered necessary by the High Court decision in the case of the Standard Life Insurance Company, when it was held that a Company carrying on business in Calcutta could not be assessed to license-tax unless it carried on a business expressly mentioned in the schedule. They also include some minor amendments introduced at the instance of the Corporation. Rules 13 and 14 of the schedule substitute a Sub-Committee appointed by the General Committee for 'a Bench consisting of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and not less than three Commissioners' as the alternative appellate authority under the schedule.

"CHAPTER XVIII.—WATER-SUPPLY.

"Under the present Act the supply of filtered water is intermittent; but the quantity actually pumped exceeds that which the mains were laid to carry, so that the provisions of section 153 with regard to the head of pressure during the hours of supply have ceased to be operative and the pressure varies greatly in different parts of the town. The residents not unnaturally keep their taps continually open, in order to take the fullest advantage of any supply they can get, and the result is that a large proportion of the existing supply runs to waste. This practice, combined with intermittent pumping through constricted mains, causes the pressure to be so low that in a large section of the town, and chiefly at present in the Bara Bazar area, the water does not rise above the ground floors. The Commissioners, therefore, must either incur heavy expenditure in order to enlarge the mains to meet the present scale of wasteful supply and restore the pressure of 30 feet prescribed by section 153 of the Act, or must restrict the supply to reasonable limits by preventing waste. The Bill adopts the latter alternative, but it adds provisions which are greatly to the advantage of the rate-payers. It provides for a continuous supply so far as may be practicable of both filtered and unfiltered water. The provisions in the present Act for checking waste are contained, first in section 158, which, with Schedule IX, fixes the size of ferrules with reference to the rating

of the house supplied, and thus in theory automatically restricts the quantity of water used. It is believed that the so-called 'pea-ferrules' are very harassing to the smaller house-holders, and that it should now be the object of the Corporation to restrict, not the fair use of water, but its abuse. The check on waste by the use of such minute ferrules is also of doubtful value, as even the smallest size of ferrule is capable of delivering 480 gallons in eight hours, which would greatly exceed the statutory supply. In the revised table of ferrules included in Schedule XII of the Bill, all sizes lower than a quarter inch have therefore been omitted.

"The second check on waste given in the present Act is the power conferred by section 155 of attaching a water-meter to the pipes of individual houses in cases where waste is suspected. This, however, must be at the expense of the Corporation; and as a meter costs from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40, and the number of house connections will probably at no very distant date approximate to 50,000 in the city and suburban areas, it follows that for financial reasons the section is now useless for general purposes, although it might have been of considerable use if it had been applied from the inception of the water-works. The only practicable plan under the conditions which now prevail is to divide the town into blocks for the purposes of water-supply, and to keep a check on the consumption of water in each district by meters applied to the mains and sub-mains which supply the block. The Bill provides for the introduction of this system, which has been worked successfully in a large number of towns in England; and the Chairman is authorized by it to recover the value of the water consumed in each block over and above the statutory allowance by a percentage charge levied rateably in the block on the water-rate bills of connected premises. The existing section 155 is retained for use in particular cases, and individuals who think themselves aggrieved by the levy of an extra water-rate in the district are given the option of claiming a meter for their own houses at a reasonable rate of hire. I trust, however, that it may not be necessary in practice to resort to the levy of an extra rate on the block. There is, I am told, an instrument called a stethoscope which enables waste to be traced to individual houses. Those people might fairly be called upon to take meters and pay rent for them until they amended their ways and took to closing their taps—with a constant supply there is no excuse for leaving a tap open. In other respects the Bill follows closely the system already in force in Calcutta and Bombay.

"CHAPTER XIX.—DRAINAGE.

"The drainage sections of the Bill are mainly based upon the Bombay Act, the most useful clauses of the Calcutta Act being also incorporated. Of new points the following are the most important :—

(a) The clauses giving the Local Government considerable power of control over the outfall of the sewage system, especially with reference to any alteration in the outfall works made necessary by the decay of river channels—a possible, but at present remote contingency attaching to all outfalls into the network of tidal creeks which intersect the Salt Water Lakes. These provisions embody the orders issued on the outfall works now under construction, which were passed under section 274 of the Calcutta Act.

(b) Care has been taken in drafting the Bill to emphasise the rights of the rate-payers, as well as the duties and responsibilities of the Corporation with regard to drainage matters.

(c) By sections 315 to 322 it is proposed to substitute an unpaid agency of licensed plumbers working at rates approved by the General Committee for the present insufficient staff of Drainage Inspectors appointed by the Corporation. The number of house-connections now amounts to nearly 30,000, which is likely to increase, and it is found practically impossible at reasonable cost for the Corporation to do more than exercise a general control over house fittings or to accept responsibility for the repair and maintenance of these fittings with all the contingencies of occasional stoppages from misuse. The Bill therefore provides an agency, of which the public must avail themselves, to carry out house drainage works at reasonable rates, and the Corporation is bound to exercise proper control over this agency, and to punish breaches of the laws and bye-laws in cases where house fittings are not properly maintained.

"Under the head of the lighting of streets and public places, the Calcutta Act (sections 296 and 297) is singularly meagre, and the provisions in Chapter XXV of the Bill are accordingly based upon sections 330-335 of the Bombay Act.

"The sanitary provisions contained in Chapters XXVI to XXXIII and XXXV of the Bill are based mainly on Chapter XV of the Bombay Act; which is in many respects more effective than the corresponding sections of the Calcutta Act.

"CHAPTERS XXI TO XXIV.—OF STREETS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS.

"This, Sir, in my opinion is the most important part of the Bill. It is also by far the most difficult, and the one on which I am most anxious to invite the fullest criticism from the public. At the same time I do not propose to go into very great detail now. The draft which has been inserted in the Bill is based in the main upon the report of the Building Commission, but I have imported into it several important provisions drawn from foreign sources which I will explain presently. It is still under the consideration of the Building Commission, and their assistance has been, and I trust will be, of the utmost value. The Government is under great obligations to the President of the Commission for the report that has been submitted and the great mass of evidence that has been collected. I desire myself, both as a Member of the Commission and as in charge of this Bill, to tender my most cordial personal thanks to Babus Kally Nauth Mitter and Nalin Behari Sircar for the help they have given me in dealing with these sections. Their knowledge of the conditions of the native part of the town and the difficulties which have to be met there has been invaluable, and I have found them most open-minded and ready to consider and enter into new proposals.

"Now the trouble about a building law is that you have to deal in it with two widely different sets of conditions—things as they are and things as they ought to be. Things as they are, especially in the native part of the town, may be briefly described as chaos. One can easily see how it came about. Take Bara Bazar as an illustration. There you have 75 per cent. of the surface occupied by solid masonry and the balance made up of narrow lanes and tiny courts and yards. No doubt it was originally a bustee consisting of huts built unsymmetrically all over the place, with narrow passages between them which may have been wide enough for the original requirements of the place. By degrees the huts were converted into masonry buildings and vacant spaces were built up, but the passages remained the same, as it was no one's business and no one's interest to get them widened. This is the process that we see going on everywhere now, and it is a very dangerous process, for the passages which are wide enough for huts 12 or 15 feet high with ventilation through the eaves of the roof and also to some extent through the walls, are clearly not enough to ventilate an area made of huge masses of masonry 40 and 50 feet high. I do not say this is peculiar to Calcutta, for it is not. You see just the same state of things in many continental towns which grew up round a central market-place. The streets in the old part of Cologne are not much wider and certainly not more regular than in Bara Bazar, and the same may be said of dozens of other towns. Nor is the European business part of Calcutta wholly free from these defects. The streets no doubt are wider, but between street and street are great spaces practically filled up by solid masonry. And a tendency in the same direction may be seen even in the residential quarter. Compounds are gradually being built up and air-space encroached upon, and it is hardly an exaggeration to say that Chowringhee and Theatre Road are going the way of Burra Bazar.

"How can this state of things be dealt with by a building law? There seem to me to be two solutions. One solution is to say the whole thing is past praying for. Chaos it is and chaos it must remain so far as the ordinary building law is concerned. All we can do is to reconstruct parts of it from time to time, as we can find the money, by planning new streets, buying up land and selling it again so as to cover the cost of each undertaking. That is a tenable position, and as regards some parts of the town it may have to be adopted. No ordinary building law can make much impression on Burra Bazar. But for the greater part of the

town we should, I think, go beyond this *laissez-aller* policy. We cannot of course make all things new. We cannot take that short way with offending structures which is expressed in the line—

‘Diruit, sedificat, mutat quadrata rotundis.’

But we can control and check. We can provide that new buildings and old buildings reconstructed shall conform to certain rules, and we can stop the building up of vacant spaces. This the Bill attempts to do by sections 367 and 372. But the control thus exercised must not be absolute and automatic, or great hardship may result. The Bill gives a certain discretion to the General Committee to apply or not to apply the provisions of the Bill in cases where buildings are materially altered. And in addition to this a general power of dispensation is vested in the Government to be exercised on the application of any two of the municipal authorities.

“Subject to these safeguards the regulations intended for new buildings on new streets will apply to new buildings on old streets and to existing buildings when they are re-erected or materially altered. In other words, provisions designed for things as they ought to be will apply with certain checks and balances to things as they are.

“Among the provisions relating to new streets and new buildings will be found some principles which have been adapted from modern continental legislation. The most important of these is embodied in section 365, which runs as follows:—

‘365. (1) The General Committee may give public notice of their intention to declare that in any particular streets, squares or quarters of the town specified in the notice, or in any specified portions of such streets, squares or quarters,—

Power to regulate future erection of certain classes of buildings in particular streets, squares or quarters.

- (a) continuous building will be allowed subject to the provisions of this Act relating to continuous building, or
- (b) the erection of only detached buildings will be allowed, subject to the provisions of this Act relating to buildings, or
- (c) the erection of shops will not be allowed without the special permission of the General Committee, or
- (d) the erection of buildings of the warehouse class will not be allowed without the special permission of the General Committee, or
- (e) the erection of buildings of the warehouse class will be allowed subject to the provisions of this Act relating to such buildings, or
- (f) the elevation and construction of the frontage of all masonry buildings thereafter erected or re-erected shall, in respect of their architectural features, be such as the General Committee may consider suitable to the locality, or
- (g) the erection of huts will not be allowed without the special permission of the General Committee.

‘(2) Every such notice shall be published in such manner as the General Committee may think fit, and shall specify a period within which objections will be received.

‘(3) The General Committee shall consider all objections received within the said period, and may then prepare a declaration relating to the streets, squares or quarters referred to in the notice, and submit the declaration to the Local Government, together with the said objections (if any) and their report upon them.

‘(4) The Local Government, after considering the said objections (if any), may confirm the declaration, and before doing so may modify it, but not so as to extend its effect.

‘(5) When any such declaration has been so confirmed, it shall be published in the Calcutta Gazette and shall take effect from the date of such publication.’

“This principle has been accepted and acted upon in a number of continental towns, notably in Vienna, which in 1890 took in a large area of suburbs, as Calcutta did in 1889, and at once appointed a Building Commission to consider the probable results of the change. The report of this Commission and the draft Bill annexed are most instructive documents, and I have made much use of them in drafting portions of the Bill. The section I have quoted departs, however, from the continental principle in so far as it does not attempt to fix outright and embody in the law the streets and quarters in which particular sorts of buildings shall or shall not be allowed. That, I submit, would be impossible at present. We cannot foresee with certainty the details of the future development of Calcutta. One can say in a general way that a European residential quarter is likely to be formed in Alipore and Ballygunge, and may extend southward as far as drainage and water-supply

permit. A native residential quarter may also develop on the north of the town towards Barrackpore. The area round the Docks will probably come to be taken up for warehouses and business premises generally, while the river bank on both sides above and below Calcutta will be occupied by mills, docks and wharves. Years ago one would have located the residential quarters along the river bank, but the waterway is too valuable commercially for that to be possible at the present day, and the glories of Garden Reach are now a thing of the past. Beyond these general propositions it is at present impossible to go, and obviously no precise differentiation of quarters can be based upon what I have just said. I venture to think, therefore, that the expedient adopted in the Bill is in principle a sound one. I trust that the clause as to architectural features will be accepted. The idea is not a new one. It is at least as old as the Renaissance when the people of Siena created a special department for beautifying their city, the *ufficiali del ornato*, the decorative department, whose influence on the streets can be traced even now. I have no doubt Calcutta architects will rise to the occasion when the temptation to sacrifice everything to gaining an inch of space is withdrawn.

"Another point for which I am indebted to continental practice is the distinction between continuous building, that is to say, building in rows of houses like a London street, and detached buildings of the villa type. It is a convenient distinction, as it enables you to formulate distinct rules for the two classes of buildings. Thus in the case of dwelling-houses built in streets where continuous building is allowed, the Bill provides for clear space at the back equal to half the height of the house, while a dwelling-house built in a quarter reserved for detached building must have a clear space all round equal to the height of the house. So far as new streets and new buildings are concerned, the rules will, I believe, work well, but my friend Babu Kally Nauth Mitter pointed out to me the other day that their application to existing streets will require very careful consideration, where you have streets of continuous building separated by large spaces filled up by detached buildings. In connexion with continuous building, I may add that the Bill proposes to introduce the continental system of fixing a building line four feet behind the street alignment. Both terms are defined in the Bill. Practically it means this, that a man building on a street cannot put his main front wall on the alignment. He must put it four feet back. But he may use this four feet for verandahs, porticos, oriels, balconies, steps and decorative projections of all kinds. It is claimed for this system that it gets rid of a host of vexatious disputes about projections, that it adds to the air space, and that it encourages decorative methods of domestic architecture.

"The Bill follows the Vienna draft proposals in respect of a third point of considerable importance. It distinguishes between provisions relating mainly to sanitary considerations, such as ventilation and the like, and provisions relating to construction. The former it proposes to embody once for all in the law, on the ground that they rest upon permanent principles which are matters of settled doctrine and are not liable to vary from time to time. The latter it relegates to a schedule as being liable to change, and provides a procedure by which the schedule can be altered. This, I think, is reasonable. Illustrations will occur to every one. For instance, a new process in the manufacture of iron might greatly increase the strength of iron beams, and in that case the prescribed dimensions might be reduced. But it would be absurd to have to amend the Act for that purpose.

"Finally, before leaving this part of the Bill, I must draw attention to sections 364 and 439 to 450, which introduce in two different forms the continental principle of the reallocation of building sites. In a great many cases the alignment of a new street, whether designed on the radial, the rectangular, or the circular system, divides the blocks of land owned by individuals irregularly so as to leave a number of odd pieces, triangular, segmental and the like, which cannot be fitted into any orderly system of building. In such cases if the frontage of the buildings is laid on or parallel to the alignment of the street, their plan must be more or less oblique; while conversely if the houses are built on a rectangular plan, their frontages will run obliquely to the line of the street. If the proprietary blocks

are entirely irregular, the difficulty of utilising them for building is proportionately increased. In order to get over this difficulty power has been taken in some continental Acts, the best known and most successful of which is the Act passed by the Free City of Hamburg in 1890 for the reconstruction of the suburbs on the right bank of the Elbe to throw together all the proprietary sites in a building block, cut them up into suitable building sites, and give them back to the proprietors. The division is to be made in such a manner 'that every ground proprietor shall get a share in the aggregate value of the reallocated plots of land proportionate to the share which he had in the aggregate value of the plots before reallocation.' It sounds at first rather intricate, but it is nothing like as puzzling as a batwara which is a familiar thing, and it has been worked successfully, with the consent of the proprietors concerned, at Basel in Switzerland, at Mainz, in Hamburg and at Cologne, and it is proposed to extend it by special legislation to the whole of Prussia. Obviously it must add materially to the value of the land. As applied to bustees, it seems to offer a ready means of getting over the practical difficulties of remodelling them without compelling the Corporation to acquire the entire land and without any hardship to the proprietors. The cost of the procedure would be the value of the huts, less materials given back to the owners, and the value of the land taken up for roads, less the value of existing roads surrendered.

"An alternative procedure borrowed from the scheme for Vienna and embodied in section 364 provides on the application of the owners of not less than half the area affected for throwing together unsuitable plots, dividing them into suitable building sites, and selling them by auction. This is said to have worked well in several continental towns.

"Both procedures seem to deserve consideration. It is obvious that some special powers are necessary to secure regular building sites on new streets and that the value of regular sites will be greater than that of irregular ones.

"CHAPTER XXXIV.—REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

"In connexion with the question of securing the early reporting of deaths from plague, the Government has been led to consider the desirability of improving the entire system of registering deaths in Calcutta. Owing to the fact that the registrars and sub-registrars are mere clerks who have no medical knowledge, the entries relating to the cause of death in column 8 of the form in the eleventh schedule of the present Act are in a large proportion of cases wholly untrustworthy. Of the 70 persons who on an average die every day in Calcutta, the returns show that from one-third to one-half have had no medical attendant, and in all these cases the cause of death is more or less a matter of conjecture. The evils of this state of things are obvious, more especially in view of the increasing tendency on the part of foreign nations to restrict privileges in respect of quarantine to vessels coming from ports which can show accurate vital statistics. In order to comply with these requirements, the chapter relating to the registration of births and deaths has been entirely recast in the Bill. The important points are the following:—

- (1) by section 552 no corpse can be removed from a building for burial or cremation without a certificate in the form of amended Schedule XI;
- (2) section 555 requires the relatives and friends of the deceased to procure the certificate;
- (3) section 556 obliges the registrar of the district to give a certificate free of charge;
- (4) section 557 obliges medical men to furnish this certificate of their own motion within 24 hours of the death of any one whom they have attended;
- (5) section 562 provides that if a corpse is brought to a burial or burning ground without a certificate, it shall be detained there till the friends procure a certificate, or the registrar in charge of the district satisfies himself by enquiry as to the cause of death;

- (6) section 563 prohibits the examination of any corpse in opposition to the wishes of the relatives or friends of the deceased;
- (7) section 564 gives the Local Government power to make rules and to prescribe the qualifications of registrars and sub-registrars;
- (8) section 553 authorises the Chairman to license medical practitioners as registrars.

"The above scheme is calculated to bring about a great improvement in the mortuary statistics of Calcutta, and to prove useful, not only in respect of grave epidemic diseases such as plague, but as a measure of sanitary administration. The only danger to be apprehended is that the poorer classes who do not employ licensed medical practitioners may have difficulty in procuring certificates. This, however, is merely a question of organisation. Section 556 obliges the District Registrar to attend free of charge for the purpose of granting such certificates, and if enough registrars are appointed no delay should occur. Under section 546 (2) the Local Government has power to determine the number of districts, each of which must have a registrar whose qualifications will be laid down under section 564. In case of epidemics the Chairman may appoint additional registrars under section 546 (3). The system will no doubt cost more than that now in force; but, having regard to the large number of medical men in Calcutta, and the keen competition between them, it seems possible that qualified medical practitioners will be willing to accept the position of district registrar on a small salary for the sake of the practice which the office will bring with it.

"Chapter XXXVIII, which is based on the recommendations of the Calcutta Building Commission, modifies the Land Acquisition Act in some material points. Section 584 extends the power of the Corporation to acquire land and buildings; section 585 creates a presumption, which in the case of unhealthy areas may be conclusive, that the market value of property so acquired is twenty-five times its annual value as entered in the municipal assessment book. Section 588 further empowers the Corporation to transfer land acquired by them to a Company or a private individual for the purpose of carrying out improvements in accordance with a regular scheme.

"The procedure proposed for the framing of bye-laws in Chapter XXXIX of the Bill is new. It will give both the public and the Corporation ample opportunity of expressing their views, and will leave the final decision, as it is left by the present Act, to the Government.

"The scheme of Chapter XL, which brings together in one place all penalties imposed, is borrowed from the Bombay Act. The Bill makes no material changes in the existing scale of penalties.

"Chapter XLI, dealing with procedure, has also been adapted from the Bombay Act. Power has been taken to appoint special Magistrates for the trial of offences against the Act, as experience has shown that the Honorary Magistrates, before whom a large proportion of municipal cases come, are dilatory in their procedure and impose merely nominal penalties. Provisions have also been introduced for the purpose of securing the more active co-operation of the Police in the administration of the law.

"Chapter XLII reproduces the provisions of the present Act relating to the alteration of the limits of Calcutta and contains an important section (659) giving power to extend to Howrah by notification any specified portion of the Bill subject to such restrictions and modifications as may be thought fit. Of the necessity of some measure of this kind I believe no one who is acquainted with the facts will entertain any doubt.

"The sanitary condition of Howrah is indeed in its way quite as deplorable as that of Calcutta. Although the town as a whole is not overcrowded, some of the bustees in it furnish examples of the worst forms of overcrowding. The number of public latrines is insufficient; the 26,000 private latrines, both *kutchas* and *puckas*, are as bad as those of Calcutta ever were, and the staff of sweepers is too small to clean them properly. Besides the privies, there are in Howrah about 2,500 cesspools which receive sullage and urine. It is believed that only one-eighth of this liquid sewage is removed by the sullage carts, and that the remainder sinks into the soil, drains into tanks and road-side channels or disappears by evaporation. The drainage of the town is at present effected by about 3 miles

of *pucka* and 80 miles of *kutchra* drains, most of them badly aligned and faultily constructed. A regular system of sewerage and drainage is greatly wanted, but the difficulty of finding a suitable outfall is extreme, and the Municipality is not at present in a position to borrow the amount, roughly estimated at about 25 lakhs, which a suitable drainage scheme would cost. A supply of filtered water was introduced recently, and is said to have already greatly reduced the mortality from cholera, but it must be materially extended before its full benefit can be felt. Effective building regulations are greatly needed, particularly in the bustees, where the large and increasing population of mill hands finds lodgings. The stables and cowsheds throughout the town are in a terribly insanitary condition, and are reported to be the most fertile source of surface pollution. The municipal law in force in Howrah is the Bengal Municipal Act of 1884, which is altogether inadequate to meet the wants of the town, and contains no provisions whatever for preventing the spread of dangerous diseases. From the sanitary point of view, Howrah is virtually a suburb of Calcutta; its population in 1891 was 116,606, representing an increase of 28·4 per cent. on the population recorded in 1881; it is the head-quarters of the East Indian Railway, and contains a large number of factories which attract operatives from the neighbouring districts; and any outbreak of disease in Howrah would almost certainly spread to Calcutta. Owing to the constant intercourse between the two towns, the people of Howrah are familiar with the system of taxation and municipal administration that is in force in Calcutta, and it will be simpler and easier to extend portions of the Calcutta Act from time to time, in accordance with the growing needs of Howrah, than to enact a special statute for the latter town. The Bill provides for notice being given of the intention to extend any portions of the Act and for the hearing of objections.

"That, Sir, is the Bill. It is a large measure, and the introduction in the constitution of the proposed General Committee of the principle of proportionate representation is, I allow, a new departure. But it is an honest attempt to solve a problem which at all times and in all countries must remain a difficult one—that of giving to a numerical minority the rights to which it is entitled, not merely in its own interests, but in the interests of the community of which it forms part. I appeal to those who in this Council represent the dominant majority on the Corporation as it now exists to accept it in the spirit in which it is meant and to accept it the more cordially as it seeks to realize the ideal set before us by their great predecessor, the Hon'ble Kristo Das Pal—the ideal of uniting Europeans and Natives in the wise, progressive and energetic government of this City."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. RISLEY applied to the President to suspend the Rules of Business for the purpose of introducing the Bill.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said:—"I desire with reference to this motion to say—

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"It is a point of order for the President, and I cannot hear any discussion upon it."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said:—"I desire to enter my protest, and I ask that it be recorded."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"I will take a note of the Hon'ble Member's intervention, but I cannot allow a point of order to be discussed. There is no protest against a point of order. I think the Council will have seen from the very exhaustive speech with which the Hon'ble Mr. Risley has instructed us, that this Bill, although it is a large Bill, involves really only one large point of principle, and that the rest of it consists mainly of a mass of details. I cannot conceive it possible that the most able and anxious speaker and defender of the present state of things can wish to discuss, on the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee, all the details to which Mr. Risley has been referring to-day.

As a matter of fact the introduction of the Bill has been from various causes long delayed. We have lost much time during the present cold weather, partly because the report of the Building Commission was not ready and partly because we were not able to get the whole time of our Assistant Secretary, although he has worked very hard on the Bill. But we are anxious to have the Bill laid before the public as soon as possible, and to have it referred to the Corporation and to all the Associations, and to everybody who can give advice to the Select Committee. The main principle of the Bill is perfectly well understood by every one in Calcutta whose opinion is worth having in the matter. Hon'ble Members present could stand up now, if they chose, and discuss the whole principle of the Bill, and therefore there is no reason whatever, from the point of view of the public interest, to object to the suspending of the rules to enable us to get through the purely formal stages of introducing the Bill and moving that it be read in Council and of the Secretary reading the title of the Bill. This will enable us to circulate the Bill for opinion at once. When the Bill comes to be referred to a Select Committee, Hon'ble Members will have full opportunity to discuss it to their heart's content, and I am prepared to sit *de die in diem* until they have been heard. In the meantime, I see no reason why the rules should not be suspended for the purpose of introducing the Bill and reading the title, and I suspend the rules accordingly."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT having declared the Rules suspended—

The Hon'ble MR. RISLEY introduced the Bill and moved that it be read in Council.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Bill was read accordingly.

EXTENSION OF THE POLICE ACT, V OF 1861.

The Hon'ble MR. PRAIT introduced the Bill to extend certain portions of the Police Act, V of 1861, to the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and moved that it be read in Council. He said:—

"At the last meeting of the Council, I explained that Act V of 1861, which is in force only within the general police district, the police of which are under the control of the Inspector-General of Police, has no application to the town and suburbs of Calcutta, the police of which are placed under the administrative control of the Commissioner of Police. I also pointed out that the police of the suburbs and town of Calcutta are governed by two special Acts. I further indicated the necessity for extending certain portions of Act V of 1861, as amended by Act VIII of 1895, to the town and suburbs of Calcutta, so that the Government may be armed with the power of quartering additional police in disturbed areas at the expense of the inhabitants; and that injured persons may be provided with a sure and simple means of recovering compensation. What I said as to the necessity for legislation has been emphasized by recent events in another presidency town, and it is also somewhat remarkable that my allusion to the possibility of incendiarism forming part of the programme of some future disturbers of the public peace has received such speedy and apt illustration in the ill-fated city of Bombay. The Bill which I now introduce consists of only two sections, the material portions of the Act which it is sought to extend to the town and suburbs of Calcutta having been referred to in the form of a schedule. The principal sections which it is sought to extend, with certain modifications suitable to local circumstances, are sections 15 and 15A, and I desire on this occasion to add nothing to the observations I made at the last meeting of the Council with reference to those sections."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Bill was read accordingly.

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 26th instant.

CALCUTTA;
The 29th March, 1898.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Offg. Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Dept.

CHITTAGONG CYCLONE.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 28th March 1898.

RESOLUTION—No. 1829J.

Read—

A letter, No. 2125C., dated the 26th January 1898, from the Commissioner of Chittagong, reporting on the late cyclone in the Chittagong district, the South Lushai Hills, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Read also—

Telegrams and reports previously received from the Commissioner on the subject.

A letter, No. 1503J.D., dated the 9th November 1897, to the Commissioner, asking for definite and final information as to the loss of life caused by the cyclone and the storm-wave which accompanied it.

A minute recorded by the Hon'ble Mr. C. C. Stevens, Officiating Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on the 26th November 1897, on the subject.

On the night of the 24th October 1897, the Chittagong district was visited by a cyclone of extraordinary violence. The cyclone was accompanied by a series of storm-waves more disastrous than the cyclone itself. The main force of the disturbance was felt across the whole breadth of the district from about fourteen miles north of Chittagong town to a point about four miles south of Cox's Bazar, a distance of some seventy miles. In the southern portion of this tract lies the delta of the Mahamuri river. The low-lying lands of this delta and of the islands which lie off it were completely swept by the storm-waves. In many villages half the inhabitants were drowned. The survivors found their houses levelled to the ground, their crops entirely destroyed, a great part of their cattle drowned, and themselves without any stores of food or clothing.

2. Vigorous steps were at once taken by the local officers to ensure that to these disasters should not be added suffering or death from starvation. The available officers were placed each in charge of a defined tract, funds were placed at their disposal by the Famine Relief Committee, and arrangements were made for the immediate distribution to those who had suffered most severely of food, clothing and building material, or the means of buying these necessaries. In the following month, the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor himself visited the district and considered, in consultation with the local officers, the further means which should be taken for relief of the sufferers and repair of the damage caused by the disaster.

3. *Loss of life and private property.*—The Commissioner has reported the total loss of life due to the cyclone to be about 14,000 persons. It is estimated that about 15,000 cattle were drowned. The rice crop, which had promised to be a 20 anna one, was in the tract submerged by the storm-wave entirely destroyed; in a further belt of country it was reduced to a four-anna crop of damaged grain; the rest of the district yielded a 14-anna crop. This loss, coming as it did on the top of two bad seasons, was peculiarly unfortunate. Throughout the affected tract houses and huts were unroofed and demolished. To afford some help in repairing this last loss, an immediate reduction of one-half was made in the rates of the forest tolls in the severely affected tracts, fees on passes for cutting building materials in the khas mahal forests were entirely remitted, and the Collector procured 10,000 bamboos from the hills for gratuitous distribution in the worst villages where building materials were not to be had.

4. *Health of the inhabitants of the affected area.*—For some days, the submerged tract was strewn with the corpses of men and cattle drowned in the storm-wave. Every effort was made to secure the water-supply from pollution, but, as was to be anticipated, cholera broke out with great virulence in places. It was reported to the Commissioner during his recent visit to Kutubdia that in this island alone no less than 1,300 deaths from cholera had occurred since the cyclone. No information is furnished as to the mortality which attended the epidemic in the remaining portion of the affected area. The Civil Surgeon has been authorized to entertain Hospital Assistants and to purchase medicines for distribution in the affected parts from

the funds placed at the disposal of the District Magistrate by the Central Committee of the Famine Relief Fund. It is hoped that these measures will prove successful in arresting the progress of the epidemic.

5. *Relief operations.*—The fund at the disposal of the District Magistrate for carrying on relief operations amounted to Rs. 65,104. This was made up of (1) a grant of Rs. 50,000 made by the Famine Relief Committee, (2) a sum of Rs. 4,000 transferred from the Noakhali Relief Fund, (3) Rs. 2,209, being the balance of the Chittagong Relief Fund, and (4) Rs. 8,895 collected by public subscriptions. Up to the middle of January last the expenditure amounted to Rs. 30,899, a balance of Rs. 34,205 being left in the hands of the District Magistrate. The Commissioner has satisfied himself that the relief administered has been sufficient to prevent any loss of life by starvation. Relief works were opened, but were not found to answer, partly because the adult males had migrated to Arracan in thousands to cut crops, and partly because the loans advanced by Government had placed the people in a position to repair their own private embankments. The number of persons requiring relief at present is considerably diminished by the exodus to Arracan, and will be still further reduced when the labourers return from that district with their earnings. In these circumstances, the Commissioner has already withdrawn some of the officers specially deputed to superintend the relief operations, and is restricting relief within narrower limits. He would, however, give gratuitous relief for some time more to widows and orphans, and to the women and children whose bread-winners have gone to Arracan. He would also continue medical aid until the rains bring the usual diminution of cholera. This course has the Lieutenant-Governor's approval.

6. *Loans.*—The Commissioner was at first authorized to distribute one lakh of rupees under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. Subsequent enquiries showed, however, that loans under the Land Improvement Advances Act for the repair of embankments were more urgently needed. The authority of Government was therefore obtained to distribute one lakh of rupees under the latter Act, the amount allotted for loans under the former being at the same time reduced to Rs. 50,000. Loans amounting to Rs. 85,162 have already been distributed under the Land Improvement Advances Act. Applications for loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are being registered, and the total amount applied for already exceeds a lakh of rupees. These applications will be taken in hand after those for the grant of loans for the repair of embankments have been disposed of. To be of full use, they should be dealt with promptly.

7. *Remission of revenue.*—The Commissioner has separately submitted proposals recommending the remission of revenue in temporarily-settled estates, amounting to Rs. 1,34,295, which are being considered in the Revenue Department of this Government.

8. *Damage done to public buildings, embankments, roads, bridges, &c.*—Almost all the public buildings have suffered. At Chittagong the salt golas were wrecked. An estimate has been prepared for rebuilding them at a cost of Rs. 51,175. The offices of the General Manager of the Court of Wards and of the khas tahsildars at Satkania and Patiya were completely blown down, while the Sadar Tahsil office was entirely unroofed. The sub-tahsil offices in Satkania, Cox's Bazar and Patiya, and the post and telegraph offices in the south of the district had all to be rebuilt; and most of the police-stations were also wrecked. The mufassal dispensaries were either seriously damaged or destroyed, but have been re-constructed by the Dispensary Committees; and the school buildings, with the exception of the larger ones, have also mostly been rebuilt. Orders have also been issued for the reconstruction of the Munsifs' Courts at Raojan, Patiya and Satkania, and the funds required for the purpose, viz., Rs. 9,400, will be provided in next year's budget. It has been decided to hand over to the Public Works Department the embankments round the island of Kutubdia. The cost of their restoration has been estimated at Rs. 40,221. Almost all the roads, bridges and buildings belonging to the District Board were

either destroyed or damaged. Pending the submission of a revised budget by the Board, the District Engineer has been furnished with an advance to enable him to deal with urgent repairs.

9. *Damage done to the Shipping and Port.*—The English vessels escaped very lightly, considering the violence of the cyclone. The native craft, however, fared badly. Five brigs have been officially reported to have sunk in the river. As these wrecks are considered to be a source of danger to the navigation of the river, the Marine Department has arranged with the officer in charge of Sub-Marine Defences to blow them up.

The Norman's Point Light-house has been slightly damaged, but the lantern of the Kutubdia Light-house, as well as the dwelling-houses of the light-keepers and the oil godown have been entirely destroyed. As it was impossible to repair the light, an indent for a third order flashing light has been sent to England. Pending its arrival, temporary arrangements for lighting have been made by the Port Commissioners with the assistance of the old six-wick burner and pressure lamp with temporary back reflectors. This light is visible at a distance of 17 miles. In addition to this, blue-lights are burnt every half-hour from sunset to sunrise. Estimates have already been sanctioned for the re-erection of the light-keepers' houses and store godowns.

10. *South Lushai Hills.*—In the South Lushai Hills also great damage was done to the buildings and roads, as well as to the standing crops. Some villages have suffered seriously; others little. No lives have, however, been lost. An expenditure of Rs. 11,197 has been sanctioned by Government for clearing roads and for repairing camps as well as buildings damaged by the cyclone at Lungleh and Demagiri.

11. *Chittagong Hill Tracts.*—The tract of country that has suffered most here is that lying between and along the banks of the Mahamuri and Karnafuli rivers. The total loss of human lives is reported to have been 55, and that of cattle 1,500. The number of boats lost was 1,760, excluding those carried away during the storm in the Chakma circle. Considerable damage was done to crops in the Bohmong and Chakma circles, while in Rangamati the Government buildings suffered greatly.

12. *Conclusion.*—The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that all the officers who were employed on relief operations have given satisfaction in the discharge of their very onerous duties. The thanks of Government are due to them and to the Commissioner, Mr. Collier, and the Collector, Mr. Anderson, on whom devolved the task of organizing relief, as also to Captain Good, the Port Officer, to whose foresight and exertions it was mainly due that the vessels in the port suffered so little. The promptitude with which the Provincial Famine Relief Committee provided funds for the relief of the destitute sufferers and the liberality of Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur, K.C.S.I., Nawab Sir Khwaja Ahsunullah Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Babu Monindra Chandra Nandi of Cossimbazar, Raja Rajendra Narayan Roy Chowdry Bahadur of Bhawal, Raja Mohima Ranjan Roy Chowdhuri of Kakina, Babu Kalikisson Tagore of Calcutta, and Mr. P. C. Sen, Barrister-at-law, also deserve the grateful acknowledgments of Government. Nawab Sir Khwaja Ahsunullah Bahadur, K.C.I.E., has further to be thanked for placing the steam-launch *Barnagore* at the disposal of the Commissioner at a time when he was greatly in need of such assistance.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution, together with copies of the Commissioner's report and the minute of the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor, be forwarded to the Government of India for information.

Ordered also, that copies of the Resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of Chittagong and the Revenue and Marine Departments of this Government, and that the Resolution be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

D. J. MACPHERSON,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 28th March 1898.

Burdwan.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* crops and of potatoes continues. Pressing of sugarcane nearly over. Some cattle-pox reported. Common rice selling as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	12 to 15	} per rupee.
Kalna	13	
Katwa	14	
Raniganj	15	

Birbhum.—No rain. Weather hot. Pressing of sugarcane continues. Price of common rice at Sadar 13·8 seers, and at Rampur Hât 15 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Bankura.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. Pressing of sugarcane almost over. Fodder and water sufficient. Sporadic cow-pox reported. Common rice sells at 15 seers per rupee at Sadar and Vishnupur.

Midnapore.—No rain. Prospects of *boro* paddy, indigo and til good. Prices of common rice:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	13	} per rupee.
Ghatal	13½	
Tamluk	13	

Hooghly.—No rain. Lands are being prepared for jute and vegetables, but rain is wanted to facilitate ploughing. Common rice sells from 11 to 13½ seers per rupee.

Howrah.—No rain. Weather hot and close. Harvesting of *rabi* continues. Rain badly wanted to assist ploughing. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall nil. Days hot and nights cool. Prospects of crops fair. Rain is very badly wanted for tillage of lands. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	10 to 13	} per rupee.
Barasat	12½	
Basirhat	13½	
Diamond Harbour	13	

Nadia.—No rain. Weather getting hot. *Rabi* harvest proceeding. Ploughing continues, but rain wanted in places. Common rice sells at 11½ to 14½ seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-disease reported from some places.

Murshidabad.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *rabi* crops continues. Prospects of indigo and mulberry are hopeful. Fodder sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	13½	} per rupee.
Jangipur	14½	
Kandi	15	

Jessore.—No rain. Weather hot during day and cool at night. Harvesting of winter crops almost over. Rain badly wanted for cultivation of *aus* and *aman* paddy. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Jessore	11 to 14	} per rupee.
Jhenida	12	
Magura	12 to 13	
Bangaon	12 to 14	
Narail	11-6½ ch.	

Khulna.—No rain. Weather getting hotter. Prospect of *boro* getting worse for want of rain. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	13 to 14	} per rupee.
Bagerhat	14	
Satkhira	14½	

Rajshahi.—No rain. Prospects of crops good. Rain wanted in places. Transplantation of *boro* paddy going on. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water available. Price of common rice ranges from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Rain wanted. Land being prepared for *bhadoi* crops. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall nil. Days hot and nights pleasant. Rain wanted for the preparation of lands for jute and *bhadoi* paddy. *Rabi* crops are in progress. No want of fodder and water. Common rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Darjeeling.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Hills—Wheat, barley and potato progressing. Terai—Ploughing for *bhadoi* and jute going on. Coarse rice sells as follows:—

Hills	...	...	...	...	8 to 11 seers per rupee.
Terai	...	...	...	...	13 to 16 " "

Bhutia sells from 18 to 32 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—No rain. Ploughing for jute and sowing of *aus* continue. Weeding of *aus* commenced in places. Rain needed on light soils. Harvesting of *rabi* crops going on. Prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient except at Kurigram, where they are reported scarce in places. Good drinking-water also scarce in places at Gaibanda.

Bogra.—Rainfall nil. Lands being prepared for jute and *aus*. Fodder and water ample. Common rice selling from 11½ to 13½ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops good. Rain wanted. Common rice sells at 10 to 12 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Dacca.—Rainfall nil. Weather very hot. Prospects of standing crops good. Lands being prepared for cultivation of jute and *aus* crops. Rain is much wanted. Fodder available. Want of good water in the interior of the district. No cattle-disease. Common rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall nil. Weather cloudy. Rain wanted for *boro* paddy and for jute sowings. Common rice sells at 10 to 12½ seers per rupee. Deficient water-supply in parts of the district.

Faridpur.—No rain. Weather hot. Prospects fair, but rain wanted. Rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Backergunge.—Rainfall nil. Weather sultry. Rain wanted for crops. Common rice sells from 9 to 14 seers per rupee. No cattle-disease reported.

Tippera.—Rainfall at Sadar 18, Brahmanbaria 52. Nights and mornings cool. Ploughing continues, but more rain wanted. Pulses and chillies are being gathered. No cattle-disease. Fodder sufficient. Price of rice 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—Rainfall nil. Lands are being prepared for *aus*. Rain wanted. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water available. Price of common rice 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—Rainfall 2·67. Weather warm by day. Rain very local, and confined to neighbourhood of Chittagong. Drinking-water scarce and fodder bad in the wave-swept area. Rice sells at 12 seers per rupee.

Patna.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* nearly completed. Lancing of poppy almost finished. Prices stationary. Common rice at Patna selling at 16½ seers per rupee. Condition of cattle good. Fodder and water for cattle sufficient.

Gaya.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* and collection of opium almost finished. Prospects of *rabi* good. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices are—rice 14 seers, barley 20 seers, wheat 14 seers, gram 18 seers, *arhar* 17½ seers, and *makai* 18½ seers per rupee.

Shahabad.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* progressing. Sugarcane pressing continuing. Sowing of *china* and sugarcane in progress. Opium collection nearly finished. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Saran.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* crops being harvested; outturn estimated at 17 annas. Opium collection finished. Fodder and water sufficient. Average prices are—common rice 13·8 seers and *makai* 21·3 seers, against 9·4 seers and 10·8 seers respectively last year.

Champaran.—No rain. Weather getting warm. Harvesting of *rabi* in progress. Collection of opium nearing completion; yield satisfactory. Lands being prepared for *bhadoi* and *aghani*. Prices almost stationary. Common rice and maize sell at 13 and 21 seers per rupee respectively, against average 15½ and 20½ seers.

Muzaffarpur.—No rain. *Rabi* crops being harvested; outturn full 16 annas, in some cases more. Prices are—common rice 11 to 13½ seers, wheat 12 to 13 seers, *makai* 20 seers, barley 20 seers, gram 15 seers, *rahar* 16 seers, and *marua* 22 seers per rupee.

Darbhanga.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Prospects of standing crops good. Harvesting of *rabi* in progress. Fodder and water sufficient. Price of common rice stationery at Sadar.

Monghyr.—No rain. Days hot, nights cool. Harvesting of *rabi* crops progressing; prospects good. *Mahua* good. Mango prospects good. No cattle-disease. Common rice sells as follows:—

Monghyr	...	...	...	12 to 16 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	11½ to 12½ " "
Jamui	...	...	...	14 " "

Bhagalpur.—Rainfall nil. Mornings and evenings cool. Harvesting of *rabi* crops in full swing. Indigo and other standing crops doing well. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-disease continues at Protapganj in the Supaul subdivision. Common rice sells at 13½ seers per rupee at Sadar.

Purnea.—No rain. Mornings and nights cool; days hot. *Rabi* crops almost ready for harvest; prospects good. Lands being prepared for *bha loi* crops and jute. A few cases of cattle-disease reported from Araria. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	15 seers per rupee.
Kishanganj	...	...	...	15 " "
Araria	...	...	...	17 " "

Malda.—Rainfall nil. Weather getting warm. Wheat, barley, and peas are being gathered; 16 annas' outturn is expected. Lands are being prepared for *bhadoi* crops. Coarse rice selling at 14½ seers per rupee at the Sadar station. Fodder and water ample.

Sonthal Parganas.—No rain. *Rabi* harvest continues. *Mahua* flower beginning to fall. Prospects of mango and sugarcane good. Price of common rice 13 to 15 seers, and of maize 16 to 21 seers per rupee. Fodder as usual getting scanty. Water-supply sufficient. Sporadic cattle-pox in Deoghar.

Cuttack.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Threshing of paddy and pressing of sugarcane continue. *Dalua* paddy in ear. Condition of cattle generally good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

Cuttack	Srs. ch.	
Jajpur	15 12	} per rupee.
Kendrapara	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	18 6
				17 15	

Balasore.—Rainfall nil. Threshing of *sarad* and harvesting of *rabi* crops continue. *Dalua* in ear. Cotton growing well. Sugarcane being pressed. Sporadic cases of cattle-disease reported from parts. Price of rice varies from 16 to 19 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 16 and 18 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively. Fodder and water sufficient.

Angul.—No rain. Weather hot. Common rice selling at 20 seers per rupee in Angul and 13½ seers in Khondmals. Cattle-disease reported from Angul.

Puri.—No rain. Rain badly wanted for summer rice, *moong* and mango crops. (Moughing of lands being delayed for want of rain. Prospects of cotton, gram, tobacco and other *rabi* crops generally good. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

Puri	...	...	...	17 seers 2 chittacks per rupee.
Khurda	...	...	...	15 " 12 " "
Interior of district	...	15 seers 7 chittacks to 21	"	" "

Hazaribagh.—No rain. Weather hot. Strong winds. Prospects of *mahua* and mango favourable. Rice sells at 12 to 13 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—No rain. Reaping of *rahar*, wheat and barley continues. Prospect of *mahua* good. Rice sells at Ranchi 12 seers and in the interior from 12 to 14 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palaman.—Rainfall nil. Weather cloudy. *Rabi* harvesting going on. *Mahua* retarded. Water and fodder sufficient. Rice selling at about 11 seers per rupee.

Manbhum.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops good. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and drinking-water sufficient. Average price of common rice at Sadar 15 seers and at Gobindpur 14 seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

Singhbhum.—Rainfall nil. Rice plentiful; price 12 to 16 seers per rupee.

General Summary.—There was rain in Chittagong and Tippera during the week. In Chittagong the fall recorded was 2·67 inches, but it was very local and confined to the neighbourhood of the town. More and general rain is required for ploughing, which is being delayed in parts. Rain is also wanted in some districts for the spring crops. In Outtaok and Balasore the spring rice is in ear. The harvesting of the *rabi* crops is progressing satisfactorily. The collection of opium and the sugarcane-pressing are almost over. The prospects of the *mahua* crop in the Chota Nagpur and Bhagalpur Divisions are good. The price of rice shows a slight rise in the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division and in Chittagong, Champaran, and Muzaffarpur, and a slight fall in Murshidabad and Malda: in all other districts prices were the same as in the previous week. Cattle-disease is reported from places in Burdwan, Bankura, Nadia, Bhagalpur, Purnea, the Sonthal Parganas, Balasore, Angul, and Lohardaga. Deficiency of fodder-supply is reported from parts of Rangpur, Chittagong, and the Sonthal Parganas, and of water-supply from parts of Rangpur, Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
The 29th March 1898.

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE PRICES OF FOOD-GRAINS.

RETAIL prices of common rice and other food-grains in the several districts of Bengal and in the neighbouring districts of the North-Western Provinces during the first and second fortnights of February and the first fortnight of March 1898, as compared with the corresponding fortnights of February and March 1897, are published for general information. The latest available prices of common rice in Cachar and Sylhet are also published.

M. FINUCANE,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT, the 28th March 1898.

Quantity obtainable for a rupee.

DISTRICTS.	1898.			1897.		
	15th February.	28th February	15th March.	15th February.	28th February.	15th March.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.
COMMON RICE—						
Burdwan ...	13 14	13 14	13 2	11 0	11 0	10 8
Birbhum ...	13 8	13 8	13 8	{ 9 0 to 9 12 }	9 12	9 12
Bankura ...	15 0	15 0	15 0	11 4	11 8	11 4
Midnapore ...	13 0	13 12	13 12	11 0	11 0	11 0
Hooghly ...	11 0	11 0	11 0	9 0	9 8	9 8
Howrah ...	11 6	13 0	12 8	9 8	10 8	10 0
24-Parganas ...	11 14	11 14	{ 11 8 to 13 0 }	11 0	10 0	10 0
Calcutta ...	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Nadia ...	12 0	12 7	12 7	9 2	9 9	9 11
Murshidabad ...	13 12	14 8	13 8	10 8	10 2	9 8
Jessore ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	11 0	11 0	11 0
Khulna ...	14 4	14 4	14 4	11 6	12 12	11 0
Rajshahi ...	12 12	13 8	13 8	9 12	10 2	9 12
Dinajpur ...	13 8	14 5	14 5-2½	9 9-3½	10 3-1½	10 3-1½
Jalpaiguri ...	12 8	12 8	12 0	9 0	9 0	9 0
Darjeeling ...	11 0	11 0	11 0	8 0	8 8	8 8
Rangpur ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	10 8	10 0	8 8
Bogra ...	12 0	12 12	12 0	10 2	10 14	10 8
Pabna ...	11 10	12 0	12 0	10 0	10 8	10 0
Dacca ...	12 0	11 12	12 0	10 8	10 0	10 0
Mymensingh ...	10 0	10 0	10 0	9 0	9 0	9 0
Faridpur ...	11 8	12 0	11 12	9 12	10 0	9 12
Backergunge ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	10 8	10 4	11 0
Tippera ...	12 4	11 14	12 4	10 10	11 2	10 8
Noakhali ...	12 8	11 0	11 0	10 0	10 8	9 8
Chittagong ...	12 4	12 4	11 12	9 4	9 8	10 0
Patna ...	15 0	14 8	16 0	10 8	10 0	10 8
Gaya ...	14 4	14 0	14 0	9 8	9 4	8 12
Shahabad ...	{ 13 0 & 13 8 }	13 0	13 8	10 0	9 8	9 4
Saran ...	14 8	14 4	13 4	11 0	9 12	9 8
Champaran ...	15 0	14 8	15 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Muzaffarpur ...	14 0	14 8	14 0	9 3½	9 4	8 8
Darbhanga ...	13 8	13 8	12 8	9 0	8 8	9 0
Monghyr ...	12 9½	12 9½	12 13½	9 8	9 0	8 0
Bhagalpur ...	15 2	14 8	14 8	10 12	10 2	9 6
Purnea ...	16 8	16 0	16 0	9 8	10 0	9 8
Malda ...	13 0	13 0	13 8	10 8	9 8	9 0
Sonthal Par- ganas.	14 0	13 0	13 4	10 12	10 4	10 4
Cuttack ...	15 12	15 12	15 12	11 12	11 12	12 8
Balasore ...	15 0	16 0	16 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
Puri ...	15 12	17 2	17 2	13 2	11 12	11 12
Hasaribagh ...	13 0	13 0	12 8	9 0	9 0	9 8
Lohardaga ...	12 0	13 0	12 8	{ 8 8 to 9 0 }	8 8	8 0
Palamau ...	13 0	13 6	12 15	{ 9 0 to 8 7 }	9 4	8 8
Manbhum ...	16 0	16 0	15 0	{ 10 0 to 10 8 }	8 7	8 7
Sing bhum ...	16 0	16 0	16 0	11 0	11 0	11 0

Districts.	1898.			1897.		
	16th February.	28th February.	15th March.	15th February.	28th February.	15th March.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.
WHEAT—						
Patna ...	13 0	12 0	12 8	8 0 and 9 0	10 0	10 0
Gaya ...	10 8 10 0	10 0	13 4 9 12	7 8 8 0	8 0 8 8	9 12 8 8
Shahabad ...	and 10 8	and 11 0	and 11 0	and 9 0	and 9 0	and 10 0
Saran ...	11 0	11 8	13 0	8 8	8 8	9 10
Champaran ...	10 0	11 0	11 0	8 1½	7 12	8 0
Muzaffarpur ...	11 0	10 0	11 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Darbhanga ...	10 0	9 8	9 0	7 0	8 0	6 0
Monghyr ...	10 12½	11 2½	10 8 to 14 2½	8 4	8 8	8 0
Bhagalpur ...	11 6	10 12	10 12	8 14	8 14	8 12
Purnea ...	.....	8 8	8 8	11 0	9 8	10 0
INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE—						
Patna ...	21 0	20 8	21 8	12 8	11 8	.....
Gaya ...	18 0	17 8	18 8	10 8 11 0	10 8	.....
Shahabad ...	18 0	18 0	18 8	and 11 8	11 4	11 0
Saran ...	19 12	19 4	20 10	10 4	10 8	10 10
Champaran ...	22 0	21 8	21 0	10 11½	19 5	9 12
Muzaffarpur ...	20 0	20 0	20 0	10 0	10 8	10 8
Darbhanga ...	19 0	19 0	18 8	10 0	9 4	.....
Monghyr ...	19 2½	21 0	19 15½	11 8	12 0	12 0
Bhagalpur ...	21 8	21 8	21 8	12 0	11 6	11 4
Purnea ...	20 0	20 0	20 0	.....	.....	.....
Sonthal Parganas ...	19 0	20 0	20 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
Hazaribagh ...	16 0	16 0	14 8	10 0	10 0	10 0
Lohardaga ...	16 0	17 0	16 0	9 0	9 0	9 0
Palamau ...	16 14	16 14	16 14	9 9	9 9	10 2
Manbhum ...	18 0	18 0	18 0	13 0	12 0	11 0

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

COMMON RICE—						
Jaunpur ...	10 8	10 8	10 8	9 12	9 12	7 0
Gorakpur ...	13 15	12 9	Not recd.	8 13	8 9	8 6
Mirzapur ...	10 12	10 12	Ditto	7 12	8 6	8 7
Benares ...	10 13½	10 13½	10 9	8 6	8 6	8 1½
Ghazipur ...	11 4	11 4	11 4	9 4	9 4	9 4
Ballia ...	10 0	11 4	11 0	10 0	9 8	8 8
WHEAT—						
Jaunpur ...	11 0	12 8	12 0	7 12	7 12	9 2½
Gorakpur ...	12 9	12 9	Not recd.	8 9	8 2	10 1
Mirzapur ...	9 9	10 2	Ditto	8 9	8 1	8 9
Benares ...	10 13½	11 15	11 15	7 13	7 11	9 8
Ghazipur ...	10 4	10 12	11 12	8 8	9 8	9 0
Ballia ...	10 4	10 0	10 10	9 0	8 12	9 0

ASSAM.

Prices of common rice for the week ending 10th March 1898:—

	Week of report.	Preceding week.	Corresponding week of 1897.
	S. CH.	S. CH.	S. CH.
CACHAR—			
Janiganj Bazar ...	9 6	9 6	9 6
Heilakandi ...	9 0	9 9	9 0
SYLHET—			
Kasi Bazar ...	11 4	11 4	9 0
Chhatak Bazar ...	11 0	11 0	9 8
Sunamganj ...	10 0	10 0	10 0
Habiganj ...	12 0	13 0	10 0
Karimganj ...	10 0	10 0	9 0
Maulvi Bazar ...	12 8	12 8	10 0

Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from
20th to 26th March 1898.

Month.	Date.	Maximum in sun.	Number of hours of bright sunshine.	Mean pressure barometer at 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.				HYGROMETRY.				WIND.		Rain.	WEATHER
					Mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Mean wet bulb.	Vapour tension.	Dew point.	Humidity.	Prevailing direction.	Miles recorded.		
1898.				Inches.	°	°		°	°	Inches.	°	%			Inches.	
March	20th	151.1	8.8	29.721	84.2	99.2	25.7	73.5	74.7	0.732	69.9	67	NNW and calm	62	Nil	Clear, ☼
	21st	148.1	8.3	29.740	83.4	93.5	20.5	73.0	73.3	0.690	68.2	65	N, calm, and variable.	60	"	Clear, ☼
	22nd	148.0	9.4	29.822	79.7	90.9	20.6	70.3	64.8	0.425	51.4	44	NNW and calm	75	"	Clear.
	23rd	145.9	7.8	29.923	76.1	91.5	29.3	62.2	63.5	0.422	54.2	52	Calm and variable	21	"	Clear.
	24th	149.7	10.0	29.919	79.5	94.2	31.0	63.2	64.2	0.397	52.6	39	WSW, calm, and variable.	60	"	Clear.
	25th	145.1	7.7	29.842	78.4	93.3	28.3	65.0	66.7	0.499	58.9	52	SW, SSW, and S	157	"	Clear
	26th	152.1	8.9	29.793	81.5	97.4	27.7	69.7	72.7	0.687	68.0	64	WSW and SSW	124	"	Clear.

The mean pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.822

The average pressure of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 29.789

The total number of hours of bright sunshine Hours. 60.9

The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine 84.9

The mean temperature of the seven days 80.4

The average temperature of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 82.7

The extreme variation of temperature 37.0

The maximum temperature 99.2

The highest velocity of the wind in one hour Miles, 13

The mean relative humidity % 55

The average relative humidity of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 65

The total fall of rain from 20th to 26th March 1898 Inches. Nil.

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 0.28

The total fall from 1st January to 26th March 1898 0.36

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 2.69

The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph, and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are obtained from self-registering thermometers. All the thermometers are verified and the readings have been corrected to a standard constructed and verified at the Kew Observatory. They are exposed under a thatched shed open at the sides, and are suspended four feet above the ground.

The barometer readings are corrected approximately to those of the standard, Newman's No. 86, formerly at the Surveyor-General's Office.

The hygrometric elements are obtained from Tables III, IV, and V of the official tables computed in the Meteorological Office, and based on Regnault's modifications of August's formula.

The directions and the movement of the wind are taken from the trace of a Beckley's anemograph.

The mouth of the rain-gauge is one foot above the ground.

☼, fog.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, GOVT. OF INDIA,
Calcutta, the 28th March 1898.

J. H. GILLILAND,
Per Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of India

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 20th to 26th March 1898.

Month.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.						HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall per 24 hours.
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.	Humidity at 10 A.M.	
1898.		Inches.	°	°		°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
March	20th	29.800	87.4	100.1	25.4	74.7	86.6	77.5	.822	78.4	65	Nil.
"	21st	.822	84.4	95.0	21.2	73.8	86.6	71.6	.574	62.8	45	"
"	22nd	.892	81.8	93.4	23.3	70.1	84.4	61.2	.238	38.4	20	"
"	23rd	.902	77.6	92.9	30.6	62.3	85.6	63.8	.308	45.3	25	"
"	24th	.906	80.0	96.8	33.7	63.1	86.6	66.8	.394	62.3	31	"
"	25th	.905	80.5	94.6	28.2	66.4	86.6	70.6	.535	60.8	42	"
"	26th	.849	84.7	90.6	29.8	69.8	86.1	74.3	.691	68.2	55	"

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.894

The mean temperature of the seven days 82.3

The extreme variation of temperature 37.8

The maximum temperature 100.1

The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days % 40

The total fall of rain from 20th to 26th March 1898 Inches. Nil.

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 28th March 1898.

C. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Abstract statement showing Tollage on Canals in Bengal classed as Major Works for the month of January 1898, as compared with that of the corresponding month of the previous year.

CANALS.	TOLLAGE, 1897-98.			TOLLAGE, 1896-97.								
	During the month.	To end of the month.		During the month.	To end of the month.							
1	2	3		4	5							
<i>Orissa Circle.</i>	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.						
Taldanda Canal System	1,431	12	5	11,120	6	9	1,055	1	11	19,875	2	1
Kendrapara ditto	10,185	0	10	96,394	12	6	10,742	3	8	90,977	5	6
High Level Canal, Range I	3,118	14	0	16,089	7	3	2,827	1	6	15,454	6	0
Ditto, " II	461	8	9	2,383	1	9	515	6	6	2,730	3	3
Ditto, " III	190	14	11	689	15	8	141	7	3	728	11	6
Jajpur Canal	12	10	6	226	9	0	24	5	3	225	4	0
Total Orissa Circle ...	15,403	13	5	1,26,904	4	11	15,305	10	1	1,29,991	0	4
<i>South-Western Circle.</i>												
Midnapore Canal ...	11,352	10	3	1,09,211	12	6	12,945	5	9	1,28,835	4	6
Hijili Tidal Canal ...	4,704	7	9	75,112	8	3	4,308	3	3	76,265	15	6
Total South-Western Circle... ..	16,057	2	0	1,84,324	4	9	17,253	9	0	2,05,101	4	0
<i>Sone Circle.</i>												
Patna Canal System ...	1,836	12	3	18,671	3	3	1,411	3	6	16,757	1	0
Arrah ditto ...	2,467	12	0	24,993	8	6	3,609	6	9	21,469	5	3
Buxar ditto ...	783	4	6	7,464	9	6	742	3	3	7,776	4	3
Total Sone Circle ...	5,087	12	9	51,129	5	3	5,762	13	6	46,002	10	6
GRAND TOTAL ...	36,548	12	2	3,62,357	14	11	38,322	0	7	3,81,094	14	10

Government Transport Service.

CANAL.	TOLLAGE, 1897-98.						TOLLAGE, 1896-97.					
	During the month.			To end of the month.			During the month.			To end of the month.		
	Passengers.	Goods.	re- ceiv- ing.	Passengers.	Goods.	re- ceiv- ing.	Passengers.	Goods.	re- ceiv- ing.	Passengers.	Goods.	re- ceiv- ing.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Orissa Circle.	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.
High Level ...	5,921	89	4,829 10 7	50,000	5,413	37,857 14 10	4,225	899	3,383 5 9	33,323	5,473	28,375 3 11
Total Orissa Circle ...	5,921	89	4,829 10 7	50,000	5,413	37,857 14 10	4,225	899	3,383 5 9	33,323	5,473	28,375 3 11

Assessed Tollage Receipts.

CANALS.		EARNINGS, 1897-98.				EARNINGS, 1896-97.			
		During the month.		To end of the month.		During the month.		To end of the month.	
1		2		3		4		5	
		Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
Orissa Canals	...	20,233	8 0	1,64,762	3 9	18,688	15 10	1,58,366	4 3
Midnapore Canal	...	11,352	10 3	1,09,211	12 6	12,945	5 9	1,28,835	4 6
Hijili Tidal Canal	...	4,704	7 9	75,112	8 3	4,308	3 3	76,265	15 6
Sone Canals	...	5,087	12 9	51,129	5 3	5,762	13 6	46,002	10 6
Total	...	41,378	6 9	4,00,215	13 9	41,705	6 4	4,09,470	2 9

CALCUTTA,
The 28th March 1898.

T. H. CLOWES,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Abstract statement showing Tollage on Canals in Bengal classed as Minor Works and Navigation for the month of January 1898, as compared with that of the corresponding month of the previous year.

CANALS.	TOLLAGE, 1897-98.		TOLLAGE, 1896-97.	
	During the month.	To end of the month.	During the month.	To end of the month.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Calcutta and Eastern Canals ...	44,497 11 6	2,68,885 11 0	43,237 2 6	2,72,289 11 3
Tolly's Nala ...	8,172 13 0	55,983 10 9	9,917 1 6	66,996 14 6
Total ...	52,670 8 6	3,19,869 5 9	53,154 4 0	3,39,286 9 9
Orissa Coast Canal ...	6,890 5 6	62,475 6 9	4,256 4 0	68,180 11 6
Nadia Rivers ...	5,499 11 6	78,041 7 9	3,857 14 0	86,131 11 9
GRAND TOTAL ...	65,060 9 6	4,60,386 4 3	61,268 6 0	4,93,899 1 0

CALCUTTA,
The 28th March 1898.

T. H. CLOWES,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 26th March 1898, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 26TH MARCH 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 27TH MARCH 1897.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy ...	329	94,460	1,580	322	61,148	865
Jute ...	102	89,975	611	19	8,325	139
Firewood ...	61	51,375	766	75	64,000	963
Other articles ...	757	2,00,180	2,873	747	2,26,815	3,109
Total ...	1,239	3,35,990	5,860	1,163	3,60,288	5,166

Weekly Return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 12th March 1898 on 1,705.09 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	808,717*	8,02,938 7 0*	41,61,134 0	8,10,202 15 0	21,604 0 0	11,30,030 6 0	95,317	163,032	258,349
per mile of railway ...	177 4 0	478 1 7		478 1 7	12 10 9	628 0 4			
for previous 9½ weeks of half-year.	3,036,464	32,73,083 6 0	3,92,71,561 20	76,92,231 15 0	1,04,604 0 0	1,11,59,819 5 0	886,631½	1,431,198½	2,317,830½
Total for 10½ weeks ...	3,341,171	35,76,315 13 0	4,34,32,695 20	85,07,434 14 0	2,16,103 0 0	1,22,98,858 11 0	981,818½	1,594,230½	2,576,079½
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	821,340	8,40,236 13 4	42,61,909 0	9,12,833 12 4	23,874 1 6	12,78,044 11 2	89,762	185,848	245,603
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	199 14 5	.....	536 13 9	14 0 5	760 12 7	.....	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 10½ weeks of previous year ...	3,326,389½	34,86,117 1 0	4,17,67,164 0	86,90,818 6 3	2,25,034 6 10	1,23,51,983 14 1	914,473	1,548,378	2,462,851

* The decrease is chiefly in outward traffic.

TAKRESSUR BRANCH RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 12th March 1898 on 22.23 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	22,836	6,572 4 0	22,668 20	720 9 0	8 0 0	6,860 13 0	1,073	116	1,189
per mile of railway ...	.....	250 10 7	.....	33 8 4	0 5 9	286 6 8	.....	.....	.....
for previous 9½ weeks of half-year.	234,348	59,933 8 0	1,58,407 20	6,111 4 0	79 0 0	60,143 12 0	10,108	1,184	11,292
Total for 10½ weeks ...	257,284	66,525 12 0	1,80,976 10	6,900 13 0	87 0 0	72,513 9 0	11,181	1,300	12,481
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	25,317½	6,200 4 6	17,236 0	733 1 0	6 14 9	6,940 4 3	1,065	103	1,168
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	278 14 8	.....	32 13 7	0 5 0	312 3 3	.....	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 10½ weeks of previous year ...	253,641½	62,804 3 7	2,04,827 37	7,183 14 0	88 0 0	70,046 11 1	11,354	1,010	12,364

DELHI-UMBALLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 12th March 1898 on 162.24 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	18,110*	12,770 12 0*	1,01,718 20	14,666 12 0	95 0 0	27,432 8 0	6,941	5,642	12,583
per mile of railway ...	.....	78 11 5	.....	89 12 7	0 9 4	169 1 4	.....	.....	.....
for previous 9½ weeks of half-year.	863,760	2,00,000 4 0	9,53,780 0	1,58,032 10 0	767 0 0	3,60,659 14 0	71,435	39,733	111,168
Total for 10½ weeks ...	881,870	2,18,631 0 0	10,55,498 20	1,68,190 6 0	862 0 0	3,87,892 6 0	78,376	45,375	123,751
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	18,821½	17,610 5 3	1,23,163 10	12,263 7 0	64 7 0	29,938 3 3	6,685	4,305	10,990
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	109 11 11	.....	76 6 9	0 6 6	186 9 1	.....	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 10½ weeks of previous year ...	169,441	1,23,899 14 5	9,61,046 20	1,08,750 9 0	662 11 3	1,24,253 2 3	68,029	29,663	106,164

* The decrease is both in outward and inward traffic.

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 12th March 1898 on 817 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (including ferry).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	190,410	1,01,000 0 0	776,700 0	1,30,380 0 0	9,130 0 0	2,41,370 0 0	24,175	50,500	74,675
Or per mile of railway ...	245	123 0 0	951 0	159 0 0	93 0 0	297 0 0	...	...	...
For previous 9 weeks of half-year ...	1,817,380	9,44,130 0 0	86,63,970 0	16,08,350 0 0	1,36,370 0 0	26,58,780 0 0	288,450	339,302	627,752
Total for 10 weeks ...	2,007,690	10,45,930 0 0	94,40,670 0	17,38,730 0 0	1,45,400 0 0	29,30,130 0 0	333,025	429,082	762,107
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding period of previous year ...	215,670	1,06,730 0 0	9,66,535 0	1,16,685 0 0	6,880 0 0	2,30,305 0 0	24,646	53,500	78,146
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	265	129 0 0	1,187 0	143 0 0	1 0 0	275 0 0	...	...	...
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	2,088,790	11,39,963 0 0	85,61,478 0	11,03,376 0 0	1,47,634 0 0	24,69,973 0 0	329,037	389,339	718,376

* Excluding steamer earnings.

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 19th March 1898 on 817 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (including ferry).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	200,050	1,06,530 0 0	8,32,010 0	1,41,630 0 0	7,330 0 0	2,54,770 0 0	24,430	30,920	55,350
Or per mile of railway ...	245	130 0 0	1,018 0	173 0 0	9 0 0	304 0 0	...	...	...
For previous 10 weeks of half-year ...	1,920,761	10,39,604 0 0	93,07,045 0	17,15,137 0 0	1,48,143 0 0	29,02,884 0 0	339,136	429,361	768,497
Total for 11 weeks ...	2,220,811	11,46,134 0 0	1,02,29,055 0	18,58,167 0 0	1,55,383 0 0	31,57,624 0 0	373,566	469,190	842,756
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding period of previous year ...	211,183	1,03,913 0 0	8,48,604 0	1,15,153 0 0	7,210 0 0	2,26,285 0 0	23,007	28,636	51,643
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	259	128 0 0	1,048 0	141 0 0	1 0 0	270 0 0	...	...	...
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	2,209,929	12,33,876 0 0	94,09,983 0	13,07,623 0 0	1,54,854 0 0	26,96,258 0 0	372,134	365,974	738,108

* Excluding steamer earnings.

† Audited up to 15th January 1898.

DACCA STATE RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 12th March 1898 on 56 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	21,970	9,690 0 0	30,430 0	8,140 0 0	150 0 0	10,680 0 0	2,223	1,253	3,476
Or per mile of railway ...	265	111 0 0	54 0	37 0 0	3 0 0	160 0 0	...	...	...
For previous 9 weeks of half-year ...	218,250	84,460 0 0	444,600 0	69,100 0 0	1,930 0 0	1,35,590 0 0	25,223	17,600	42,823
Total for 10 weeks ...	237,220	94,050 0 0	475,030 0	77,230 0 0	2,080 0 0	1,46,480 0 0	27,445	19,860	47,305
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	20,980	7,315 0 0	53,250 0	8,510 0 0	127 0 0	10,712 0 0	2,092	1,190	3,282
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	279	85 0 0	677 0	80 0 0	1 0 0	125 0 0	...	...	...
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	229,161	67,886 0 0	316,075 0	75,763 0 0	1,949 0 0	94,970 0 0	24,763	18,063	42,826

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 19th March 1898 on 86 miles open.

* Audited up to 15th January 1898.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 19th March 1898 on 125 miles open.

* Audited up to 22nd January 1898.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending 12th March 1898 on 827 miles open.

(a) Decrease due to less passengers having been carried.
(b) Increase due to traffic having been low last year.
(c) Includes 1,466 miles of ballast trains run on open line.
(d) " 1,299 " " " "

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 19th March 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	24,760	14,102 0 0	2,45,721 0	8,856 0 0	315 0 0	23,273 0 0	2,783	4,497	7,279
Or per mile of railway ...	86'22	49'31	859'10 0	30'96	1'10	81'37	9'73	15'73	24'46
For previous 5 weeks of half-year ...	230,775	1,43,246 0 0	20,61,763 0	76,328 0 0	4,240 0 0	2,33,716 0 0	26,000	38,906	64,906
Total for 10 weeks ...	254,435	1,57,350 0 0	23,07,484 0	85,084 0 0	4,555 0 0	2,40,969 0 0	29,783	43,403	74,284
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	23,855	13,804 0 0	1,54,367 0	10,079 0 0	238 0 0	24,231 0 0	3,246	7,164	11,110
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	83'55	48'84	498'90	35'00	0'30	83'64	11'34	19'90	31'24
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	217,940	1,28,406 0 0	15,60,090 0	56,713 0 0	5,063 0 0	2,29,174 0 0	43,297	74,301	116,498

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 19TH MARCH 1898.			RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 19TH MARCH 1897.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 19TH MARCH 1898.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1896 TO 19TH MARCH 1897.			Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease in 1898.
Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Rs.	
286	Rs. 23,273	81'37	280	Rs. 24,231	86'64	286	Rs. 9,63,626	...	280	Rs. 6,46,511	...	Rs. 3,13,115	.....

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate earnings for the week ending 19th March 1898 ...	Rs. 16,094 0 0
Corresponding period of 1897 ...	Rs. 14,669 15 6
Increase ...	Rs. 1,524 0 6
Receipts per mile for the week ending 19th March 1898 ...	Rs. 815 9 1
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897 ...	Rs. 286 10 11
Increase ...	Rs. 29 14 2
Receipts from 1st January to 19th March 1898 ...	Rs. 1,26,161 0 0
Corresponding period of 1897 ...	Rs. 1,33,826 0 0
Decrease ...	Rs. 7,664 0 0



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

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Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 26th March, 1898.

Present:

- The Hon'ble SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.
 The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL, K.C.I.E., Advocate-General of Bengal.
 The Hon'ble W. H. GRIMLEY.
 The Hon'ble H. H. RISLEY, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble RAI DURGA GATI BANERJEE, BAHADUR, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble NAWAB SYUD AMER HOSSEIN, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.
 The Hon'ble W. B. OLDHAM, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble R. B. BUCKLEY.
 The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. C. TURNER.
 The Hon'ble NORENDRA NATH SEN.
 The Hon'ble SALIGRAM SINGH.
 The Hon'ble KALI CHARAN BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble SUBENDRANATH BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble JATRA MOHAN SEN.
 The Hon'ble T. W. SPINK.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN and the Hon'ble MR. SPINK took their seats in Council.

EXTENSION OF THE POLICE ACT, V OF 1861.

THE Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE, in the absence of the Hon'ble Mr. Pratt, moved that the Bill to extend certain portions of the Police Act, V of 1861, to the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Grimley, the Hon'ble Nawab Syud Ameer Hossein, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner, the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee, and the Hon'ble Mr. Pratt.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RISLEY said:—"I beg to move that the consideration of the motion which stands in my name, namely, to move that the Bill to amend the law relating to the Municipal affairs of the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and to authorize the extension of the same to the Town of Howrah, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerjee, Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, the Hon'ble Mr. Buckley, the Hon'ble Sahibzada Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner, the Hon'ble Babu Norendra Nath Sen, the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Spink and the Mover, be adjourned till Saturday, the 2nd April. Hon'ble Members have represented that they have had insufficient time to study the principles of the Bill, and I think their objection is reasonable. In order to facilitate the study of the Bill, I have had prepared a statement which shows in parallel columns the functions assigned by the Bill to the Corporation to the Chairman and to the General Committee, and distinguishing those functions which may be exercised by the Chairman with the sanction of the Corporation or the General Committee, as the case may be. I trust this statement will render it simpler and easier to follow the application of the general principle of the Bill throughout its numerous sections."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"I should have been glad had we been able to commence the discussion of the principle of the Bill to-day. It was not intended to take a vote on the motion at this meeting. But if it suits the convenience of Hon'ble Members, I have no objection to postponing discussion to next Saturday. This will put Hon'ble Members in precisely the same position in regard of time as if the Rules had not been suspended last week. It was desirable to get the Bill read in Council then, as we wished to circulate the measure for opinions as soon as possible, and this has now been done. The real work of the Select Committee will not in fact begin before July. It will thus be clear that the charge that the Bill is being rushed through Council is altogether baseless.

I may also point out that some Hon'ble Members have been misquoted to the outside public the rule of Council regarding translation of Bills. It is a mistake to suppose that Rule 31 requires translation into the Vernacular before reference to Select Committee. The words in that rule 'on some subsequent occasion' mean, and have always been held to mean, on some subsequent occasion to the meeting at which the Bill has been introduced. The rule runs:—

'When a Bill is introduced, it shall, together with a Statement of its Objects and Reasons, be published in the English and Vernacular languages in the official Gazettes of such parts of Bengal as are affected by the Bill. And on some subsequent occasion the Member in charge of it shall make one or more of the following motions:—

- (a) that it be referred to a Select Committee, or
- (b) that it be taken into consideration by the Council at some future day, or
- (c) that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.'

"The only necessary preliminary to reference to a Committee is laid down in Rule 32, viz., that copies of the Bill and Statement of Objects and Reasons must have been seven days in Hon'ble Members' hands:—

'No such motion shall be made until after a copy of the Bill and a copy of the Statement of Objects and Reasons have been furnished to each Member. Any Member may object to the motion unless such copies have been furnished to him at least seven days previously; and such objection shall prevail unless the President, in exercise of his discretion, allow the motion to be made.'

"The translation of the Bill into Bengali, the Vernacular of Calcutta, is being made, but it is in this case sheer waste of time and money, as every person capable of giving a useful opinion on the Bill will read it in English, the language in which, I may observe in passing, all Municipal business is carried on here. I asked one of the Hon'ble Members last Saturday for whose benefit he was so anxious to hang up the Bill till translations were made, and he replied that 'the Marwaris ought to see it.' I have never myself met a Marwari who could read a Bengali Act, and Bengali is the only language into which the Bill will or can be translated. The inner meaning of this anxiety for translation I leave the Council to surmise.

"I should also like to take the earliest opportunity of removing another misconception, viz., that the Government of India had the Bill under consideration for only a week or two. As a fact they had the main principle of the Bill in full draft, and a pretty good skeleton of the rest of it before them in June last, and had it under consideration for over six months, while the Secretary of State was informally made aware of its general lines as far back as July. There was perhaps hardly ever a measure which has received more full and anxious consideration from all responsible for it. Mr. Risley and I have been working at it and consulting people about it for over a year. As I said last Saturday, the one feature in the Bill about which Government has made up its mind is the strengthening of the City Executive. All beside that is more or less tentative, and will, I hope, with the rest of the measure, be carefully examined by the bodies to whom we have referred for opinion. I am happy to know that very many leading citizens, both Native and European, are entirely with us in our main proposals. But as the Hon'ble Mr. Risley is willing to accede to the wish of Hon'ble Members, I have no objection, and I adjourn the Bill to next Saturday.

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 2nd April, 1898.

CALCUTTA;
The 5th April 1898. }

F. G. WIGLEY,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Department.

**RESOLUTION ON THE ANNUAL REPORTS ON SETTLEMENTS
AND SURVEYS IN BENGAL FOR THE YEAR ENDING
30TH SEPTEMBER 1897.**

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—LAND REVENUE.

Calcutta, the 4th April 1898.

RESOLUTION No. 1491.

READ—

Letter No. 71A., dated 15th January 1898, from the Board of Revenue, submitting the Reports of the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, on Settlements, and the Superintendent of Settlement-Surveys, Bengal, on Surveys in Bengal for the year ending the 30th September 1897.

Both the report of the Director of Land Records and that of the Superintendent of Settlement Surveys were submitted to the Board by the due date.

2. Captain R. T. Crichton, I.S.C., was in charge of the office of Superintendent of Settlement-Surveys throughout the year, with the exception of the period from 12th February to 17th March 1897, when he was on privilege leave, and Captain C. W. H. Symonds, Officiating Deputy Superintendent, officiated for him. Captain Crichton spent 95 and Captain Symonds 29 days on tour. The total of 124 days is less than the touring done in the previous year owing to the contraction of the field season in consequence of the famine in North Bihar. Mr. P. C. Lyon, C.S., acted as Director of Land Records up to 23rd November 1896, when Mr. W. C. Macpherson, C.S., resumed charge on return from furlough. Mr. Macpherson held charge for the rest of the year, with the exception of the period from 23rd June to 5th September 1897, during which he was on special duty in Orissa in connection with the settlement of that Province, and Mr. C. G. H. Allen, C.S., officiated for him in addition to carrying on his duties as Settlement Officer of Chittagong. Mr. Lyon, Mr. Allen and Mr. Macpherson were on tour for 4, 83 and 26 days respectively, exclusive of the period of Mr. Macpherson's deputation to Orissa, referred to above.

3. One small traverse section and two cadastral sections were employed in North Bihar during the year; but in view of the advent of famine, the original programme, which provided for the traverse surveys of 50 and 317 square miles, and the cadastral surveys of 500 and 600 square miles in the district of Saran and the north of district Darbhanga respectively, could not be adhered to in its entirety, and the Saran cadastral section ultimately took up only a small area in thana Basantpur, while the Darbhanga cadastral section confined their operations to the south instead of the north of the district, the areas being selected as those which were the least likely to be affected by the prevailing distress. In view of the reduction in the Bihar survey parties, Captain Crichton was, in addition to his administrative duties as Superintendent of Settlement-Surveys in Bengal, placed in executive charge of the Bihar survey, his head-quarters being transferred from Calcutta to Bihar. The outturn of survey work during the year ending 30th September 1897 amounted to 908 square miles of traverse survey; 845 square miles of cadastral survey; record-writing for 845 square miles; and topographical survey on the 16" and 2" scales, for 211 and 199 square miles respectively.

SURVEY.
General results of survey during 1896-97.

The following statement shows the general outturn and cost of survey-settlement work during the year under report and during the preceding three years:—

YEAR.	Traverse survey.	Skeleton boundary survey.	Topographi- cal survey.	Cadastral survey.	Record- writing.	Cost of survey.	Cost of settlement.	Total cost.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1893-94	3,495	175	.....	3,754	3,637	6,00,125	5,53,224	12,43,353
1894-95	3,401	23	1,026	2,784	3,120	6,04,304	6,07,155	13,01,459
1895-96	2,131	187	.....	2,320	2,476	4,20,031	10,00,017	14,39,108
1896-97	508	.....	410	845	843	2,20,142	11,45,010	13,65,151
Total	9,515	385	1,436	9,814	10,080	19,43,602	33,95,390	53,39,001

The following statement shows the comparative cost rates per square mile of survey work in different districts during the year under report:—

Localities.	Traverse survey.	Cadastral survey.	Record- writing.	TOPOGRAPHICAL.	
				16" scale.	2" scale.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Noakhali (Government estates)	34.56	89.00	58.49	...	...
Ditto (temporarily-settled)	8.28	...	...	12.28	...
Ditto ditto, 2"	4.64	...	...	...	5.96
Midnapore	98.75	302.67	199.33	...	...
Saran	89.31	142.03	128.62	55.48	...
Darbhanga	54.84	78.31	87.47	27.00	...

During the year the total area cadastrally surveyed amounted to 845 square miles, and the total cost of cadastral survey and record writing to Rs. 1,78,511; the average cost of survey and record-writing was therefore Rs. 211 per square mile. The Superintendent of Settlement-Surveys has satisfactorily explained the reasons for the great diversity of the rates shown in the above statement, and the Board draw attention to the difficulties which they illustrate in making a fairly close estimate beforehand of the cost per acre of survey and settlement operations under the Bengal Tenancy Act. The rates in Midnapore are no criterion of the ordinary rates either in that district or elsewhere, as in addition to the small area under survey (three square miles), the operations were for special reasons conducted with great detail in order to ensure absolute accuracy. Otherwise the abnormally high rates of the year under report are due to the general contraction of the survey programme in Bengal, and to alterations and reductions of the programme in Bihar on account of the famine. The latter course was unavoidable, while it was impossible to employ the establishments at such short notice outside of Bihar, nor was it desirable to break up the highly-trained parties.

4. With a view to giving effect to the orders of Government as to the survey of diara villages, it was decided during the year that all diara lands within the district boundaries should be traversed, and that a surveyor, provided with a skeleton map on a small scale of the village boundaries so surveyed, should pass over the ground and mark on the map an approximate line separating the fields having permanent boundaries from those subject to river action. On the river side of the line thus arrived at, all villages belonging to Government were to be cadastrally surveyed in the ordinary course, and all other villages topographically surveyed only on the 16 inch scale. During the year area slips for

each holding showing the name of the principal tenant, the number of each field in the holding, and the area of each, were for the first time prepared in the Bihar cadastral survey camps, and supplied to the Settlement Department for distribution to the tenants some time before final attestation; the supply of similar slips to the landlords is contemplated. The issue of these slips some time before attestation will enable landlords and tenants to become acquainted with the areas of their fields in sufficient time to put forward any objections they may have to make at the attestation stage, and the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board that this is a most valuable and practical innovation, and worthy of general adoption wherever possible.

5. No difficulties in dealing with the people were experienced in North Bihar. It is reported that in Saran the raiyats were apathetic in attending the cadastral camps

during the detail survey stage, but showed great interest in the work at the time of kharapuri, and were anxious to obtain their *parchas*. In Darbhanga there was a little trouble at first, probably due to the sudden change of programme. In Noakhali no opposition, but on the other hand no help was offered. In Midnapore the test survey was accepted with indifference. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe that great care is exercised in the imposition of fines for non-attendance, which, as the Board rightly remark, considerably affects the popularity, and consequent success, of the operations.

6. Owing to the exigencies of famine work, no junior Civilians could be attached to any of the survey parties for the purpose of instruction during the year.

7. The following table shows the survey work done in each district in Bihar, season by season, since the commencement of the operations in 1891:—

	TRAVERSE SURVEY.		CADASTRAL SURVEY.		RECORD-WRITING.		Total cost of cadastral survey and record-writing.	COST RATE PER SQUARE MILE.			Cost of survey and record-writing per acre.
	Area in square miles.	Cost.	Number of villages.	Area in square miles.	Number of villages.	Area in square miles.		Traverse survey.	Cadastral survey and record-writing (approximate).	Total cost (approximate).	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Muzaffarpur.		Rs.					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	As.
1891-92	1,247	43,290						34.7			
1892-93	997	38,515	1,153	589	1,052	466	76,413	38.6	152.1	190.7	Nearly 5
1893-94	Nil.	8,805	1,594	979	1,365	788	1,27,045		146.3		Over 34
Original work ...		2,540	604	658	987	939	1,10,078		139.3		Nearly 34
Revision of Colonel Barron's survey.			630	410	680	410	45,705		128.6		Over 3
Revision survey of Raj Darbhanga villages.			8	14	5	7	580		73		Near 1
Original work ...	30	591	433	483	433	452	70,800	33.68	172.31	264.79	Over 6
Revision of maps and records of 1892-93.			9	7	9	7	503		74.37		Nearly 2
Revision of maps and records of 1878-79.			3	7	3	7	1,074		157.00		Nearly 4
1894-97											
1891-92	2	401	2	2	2	2	3,961				
1892-93	303	12,601						34.7			
1893-94	1,103	20,654	244	416	234	320	41,182	27.5	109.1	133.9	Nearly 34
1894-95	1,390	60,498	325	517	354	599	71,404	38.3	139.3	167.5	Over 4
1895-96	124	8,205	1,038	1,162	1,036	1,176	1,66,889	65.3	134	199.2	Nearly 5
1896-97	388	9,272	1,047	1,185	1,047	1,183	1,23,169	24.08	103.88	127.90	Over 3
1897-98		216					3,098				
Saran											
1892-93	694	34,537					2,366	36.6			
1893-94	932	31,273	1,360	549	1,229	587	65,200	36.6	119.2	166	Nearly 4
1894-95	516	15,235					10,287	39.5			
1895-96	58	3,394	1,204	645	1,234	669	93,548	66.00	147.17	203.17	Over 5
1896-97	60	5,339	330	210	330	210	56,837	39.31	270.65	369.96	Nearly 9
1897-98											
1891-92	518	16,340						31.6			
1892-93											
1893-94	1,170	27,344	14	16	14	16	1,078	23.20	163.87	196.57	Over 3
1894-95											
1895-96											
1896-97	417	22,971	638	545	638	545	60,354	54.84	166.78	230.03	Over 3
1897-98											
Total	10,132	2,63,544	10,616	8,393	10,644	8,324	11,70,120				
Darbhanga											
1891-92	1,610	55,491									As.
1892-93	2,904	1,03,036	1,387	945	1,286	786	1,70,961	35			Nearly 44
1893-94	2,770	1,07,016	3,179	2,045	3,448	1,914	2,63,732	38	139	174	Over 4
1894-95	613	26,243	3,360	2,244	2,700	2,531	3,32,568	60	137	177	Nearly 44
1895-96	1,037	40,911	2,710	2,312	2,740	2,334	3,90,602	46	126	173	Over 44
1896-97	670	28,547	970	737	970	737	1,54,250				7
1897-98											
Total	10,132	2,63,544	10,616	8,393	10,644	8,324	11,70,120				

(* Including Saran.)

† Includes 25 square miles of Majhuli Ward's estate, and excludes 11 square miles of river areas actually surveyed, but which, owing to the midstream belong to the North-Western Provinces.

The statement given below shows the total survey work done up to 30th September 1897 and remaining to be done on that date in each district:—

DISTRICT.	Total area of district.	AREAS COMPLETED.			AREAS REMAINING.		
		Traverse survey.	Cadastral survey.	Record-writing.	Traverse survey.	Cadastral survey.	Record-writing.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Muzaffarpur	8,070	3,059	3,062	3,064	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Champanan	3,431	3,408	3,290	3,290	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Saran	2,622	2,454	1,407	1,407	180	1,000	1,000
Darbhanga	3,235	2,114	561	561	1,119	2,632	2,632
Total	12,458	10,035	8,310	8,311	1,299	3,722	3,722

The survey operations in Muzaffarpur and Champaran were completed in 1895-96; but two *diara* villages, covering an area of 1.75 square miles, in the former district, which had been originally surveyed in 1893-94, were surveyed anew. In the Saran district 60 square miles, consisting wholly of *diara* lands on the Gandak river, were traversed, 25 square miles of *diara* lands were topographically surveyed, and 210 square miles cadastrally surveyed and *khanapuri*d. Out of the total area of 2,622 square miles of the district, there remain for traverse survey 180 square miles only, including 12 square miles of the outturn of 1892-93, lying in the Gandak *diara*, which will have to be re-traversed; for cadastral and topographical survey 1,190 square miles remain to be completed. In the Darbhanga district 417 square miles were traversed, 545 square miles were cadastrally surveyed and *khanapuri*d, and 40 square miles of *diara* lands in the Ganges river were topographically surveyed during the year. In both districts the change of programme necessitated by the famine very much delayed operations.

SETTLEMENT.

8. Settlement work under the control of the Director of Land Records was in progress in the following areas:—for revision of land revenue in temporarily-settled estates and Government estates, 8,845 square miles; for survey and record of rights in private estates other than Wards' estates, inclusive of Bihar, 12,956 square miles; and for survey and record of rights in Wards' estates, 530 square miles, or a grand total of 22,331 square miles, as compared with 19,142 square miles in the preceding year.

9. The following statement shows the work done in each district in Bihar from the commencement of the settlement proceedings:—

Bihar Settlement.

	ATTESTATION.				DRAFT RECORDS PUBLISHED.	SETTLEMENT OF PAIR RENTS UNDER SECTION 104.			CASES UNDER SECTION 105.		CASES UNDER SECTION 106.		FINAL RECORDS PUBLISHED.
	Area in square miles.	Number of villages.	Number of plots.	Number of tenancies.	Number of villages.	Number of cases disposed of.	Number of tenants affected.	Rents raised or lowered by decisions up to date.	Number of objections filed.	Number of objections disposed of.	Number instituted.	Number disposed of.	Number of villages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1892-93 ...	66	320	110,521	35,790	311	66	713	+8.83	926	800	563	187	.....
1893-94 ...	370	712	487,090	150,069	696	117	2,273		3,256	3,020	962	840	.....
1894-95 ...	748.40	1,361	1,130,745	279,004	1,205	435	2,646		7,492	6,508	808	870	768
1895-96 ...	1,319.13	1,633	2,083,020	458,033	1,641	1,809	3,962		10,417	7,697	685	315	1,161
1896-97 ...	430.42	453	595,403	107,440	550	1,281	6,987		9,353	12,576	1,309	770	1,729
1892-93 ...	46.43	76	34,840	7,774	75	39	1,385	+9.95	49	68	40	27	.....
1893-94 ...	380	185	323,511	61,022	185	184	16,720		2,350	2,226	206	308	.....
1894-95 ...	491.43	376	470,800	73,685	316	323	17,896		1,680	1,497	820	393	247
1895-96 ...	1,162	1,075	1,358,793	193,611	632	1,089	34,053		4,190	3,071	393	353	373
1896-97 ...	663.0	491	339,511	66,038	718	614	24,910		3,532	4,050	1,814	614	691
1893-94 ...	19	69	33,155	8,130	68	31	425	+11.75	1,034	947	41	31	.....
1894-95 ...	487.41	1,160	749,533	195,315	265	1,287	19,783		615	98	23	31	57
1895-96 ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	807	1,381	31,730		9,487	7,143	116	23	11
1896-97 ...	477.09	931	920,013	173,810	615	1,183	7,108		4,268	6,452	603	256	900
1892-93 ...	112.43	396	154,161	45,573	386	104	2,098	.....	974	916	408	214	.....
1893-94 ...	775	905	843,705	216,321	949	334	18,419		6,625	6,202	1,189	1,074	.....
1894-95 ...	1,725.26	2,497	2,330,934	678,014	1,848	2,446	40,325		9,397	7,763	1,751	1,319	1,078
1895-96 ...	2,481.43	2,708	3,441,819	651,649	3,040	4,273	60,324		24,430	18,811	1,194	659	1,544
1896-97 ...	1,678.51	1,877	1,854,927	347,987	1,888	2,078	30,125		17,153	23,078	3,620	1,940	3,618
GRAND TOTAL ...	6,678.63	8,845	8,646,610	1,737,414	8,104	10,436	160,191	.....	58,779	64,770	7,573	4,106	6,134

10. Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore, c.s., held charge as Settlement Officer of North Bihar from the date of his return from leave on 7th October 1896, and Mr. R. B. Hughes, c.s., was in immediate charge of the operations throughout the year in the Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts, with the exception of a period of about three months, during which he was absent on privilege leave. Nine Assistant Settlement Officers were employed in the district of Muzaffarpur at various times during the year. The special features of the year's work were the check to the progress caused by the famine, the large amount of case work, publication of records, and office work accomplished, and the success attained in recovery of costs in Hajipur, to which operations were limited. Attestation of records was completed in 452 villages, measuring 436 square miles, leaving only five villages still unattested in the district; 496 cases for settlement of fair rents in the area attested in 1895-96, and 785 in the area attested during 1896-97, were disposed of; 12,576 objections under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act and 770 disputes under section 106 were decided, and records were finally published in 1,729 villages. From the notes kept of the nature of 1,167 objections tried by one of the Assistant Settlement Officers, it appears that 488 referred to possession and 420 to the money rents recorded; of the former, 207 were instituted by the landlord against the raiyats, 120 by raiyats against their landlords, and 66 by raiyats against raiyats. The Settlement Officer remarks that "the figures are interesting as showing that the raiyats have a full appreciation of the importance of having their holdings correctly recorded in our records and as showing that the rights of the raiyats have been well protected at attestation." Out of 131 appeals in fair rent cases disposed of by the Special Judge up to 30th September 1897, the original decisions in 104 or 79 per cent. were upheld, 14 or 11 per cent. were modified, and 13 or 10 per cent. reversed. In connection with an appeal filed by the manager of the Tikari Raj against the Settlement Officer's decision, the Special Judge remarked that the appeal should never have been filed on the unsatisfactory evidence produced. There is reason for thinking that the Ward's Estate had been following the example of certain other landlords and filing appeals in the hopes that the raiyats would eventually compromise. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Settlement Officer that it is the duty of the Manager to see that appeals are not filed on purely frivolous grounds.

In boundary disputes it is most satisfactory that out of 88 appeals filed in the course of operations in this district, in only 4 were the decisions modified and in 3 reversed, while only 6 per cent. of such decisions have been appealed against, indicating that this important part of the work which has often been attacked, has on the whole been correctly done. The work remaining in Muzaffarpur district consists chiefly of attestation of 5 villages, disposal of 905 objections under section 105 and of 1,135 cases under section 106, final publication of records in 897 villages, completion of statistics and preparation of the final report, and the computation and recovery of costs.

Operations for recovery of the cost from landlords and tenants were temporarily suspended in thana Lalganj on account of the famine; but in the Hajipur thana, which was not affected by famine, 75 per cent. of the demand was collected as the result of a few days work in March 1897, without recourse to coercive measures. Altogether Rs. 39,179 were collected during the year, bringing the total recoveries from the beginning to Rs. 73,230 only. A satisfactory feature was the reduction in the cost of collection to 3.62 per cent. on the total sum collected, against a percentage of 9.33 in the previous year. A considerable sum was collected at head-quarters without the expensive procedure of a recovery camp, and the cost of computation is not included in the calculation above, but even allowing for this the improvement was considerable and the Settlement Officer anticipates with confidence the collection of the total demand with an expenditure of less than 10 per cent.

Now that the settlement in this district is nearing conclusion, some general results of the operations are not without interest. The district has been surveyed in over four million plots or survey numbers, and over a million tenancies or parcels of land have been recorded, representing twice the number of agricultural tenancies in the whole of England, Scotland and Wales. Complete statistics of the status of tenants have not yet been compiled, but it is understood that non-occupancy raiyats and under-raiyats do not together

comprise as much as 10 per cent. of the tenancies. From the beginning of the operations rents have been settled in this district for only 16,481 tenancies (omitting rents settled for 595 *diara* tenancies) out of 1,036,000 tenancies in the district, with the result that the former rents of the tenants affected, which aggregated Rs. 1,33,932, have been raised to Rs. 1,45,759. The average incidence of rent to the acre in Muzaffarpur, as paid by various classes of raiyats, is shown by the Settlement Officer as follows, so far as figures have been compiled :—

		On entire area of holdings.		On each culti- vated acre.
		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.
Raiyats at fixed rates	...	3 6 4	per acre	3 14 0
Settled and occupancy raiyats	...	3 15 9	"	4 5 5
Non-occupancy raiyats	...	4 13 9	"	5 1 6
Under-raiyats	...	4 15 9	"	5 4 5

Under-raiyats generally pay produce rents. The total expenditure on survey and settlement since the commencement of the operations has been about 11 lakhs.

11. Mr. J. H. Kerr, c.s., was in subordinate charge of the operations in the Champaran district, but from the middle of February to the end of July he was deputed to act as Subdivisional Officer of Bettiah in consequence of the famine. Seven Assistant Settlement Officers were employed in the district for various periods. The programme for completion of attestation of records in this district was not accomplished on account of the famine, which interfered very seriously with the operations. During the year 665 square miles were attested; records were published in draft, and finally in 718 and 891 villages, respectively; fair rents were settled in 514 cases, and 4,050 objections under section 105 and 914 disputes under section 106 were disposed of. Out of 37 appeals in boundary disputes dealt with up to the end of the year under report, the decision of the Revenue Officer was upheld in 34, modified in 1 and reversed in 2 cases. The work of settling rents was confined during the year to areas where distress was not acute. In such areas the rents of 24,970 tenants were raised during the year, entirely on the ground of excess area, from Rs. 2,25,084 to Rs. 2,43,650. The following table shows the amount of work done in the settlement of fair rents from the beginning of operations according to the area attested in each year :—

Area.		Number of tenants for whom fair rents were settled.	Former rental.	Fair rent settled.	Enhance- ment.	Percentage of enhance- ment.
1		2	3	4	5	6
Attested in 1893-94	...	22,151	144,556	162,636	18,080	12.50
" in 1894-95	...	12,850	109,276	120,028	10,752	9.83
" in 1895-96	...	53,290	557,201	600,300	43,099	7.73
" in 1896-97	...	6,313	37,249	42,112	4,863	13.05
Total	...	94,604	848,282	925,076	76,794	9.05

The increase in the enhancement allowed during 1896-97 was due to the fact that the greater part of the area attested lay along the river Gandak and is subject to constant changes from alluvion and diluvion. Practically all the increase was decreed in terms of compromises, after careful enquiry into the fairness of the rents agreed upon, while in no case was an enhancement awarded in excess of 33 per cent. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets to observe the

remarks made by the Settlement Officer as to the terrorism and oppression exercised by the agents of the Madhuban Babu over his raiyats.

A review of operations in this district, so far as figures are at present available, shows from figures compiled for 1,750 out of 2,855 villages that settled and occupancy raiyats make up 92½ per cent. of the whole number of tenants. Rents have been settled for 94,604 out of a total of 402,800 tenancies for which records have been attested, with the result that former rents aggregating Rs. 8,48,283 have been raised to Rs. 9,25,076, or by 9 per cent. The average incidence of rent to the acre in Champaran, so far as statistics have been compiled, is as follows:—

	On entire area of holdings.			On each acre cultivated.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Raiyats holding at fixed rates or fixed rents ...	1	1	6	1	4	2
Settled and occupancy raiyats pay ...	2	0	3	2	3	5
Non-occupancy raiyats pay ...	1	15	5	2	3	11
Under-raiyats pay ...	1	9	2	1	10	8

It is probable that non-occupancy raiyats and under-raiyats hold inferior lands. They pay produce rents for a great part of their lands. The average size of the holdings of the various classes of raiyats varies considerably; thus while a raiyat at fixed rates usually actually cultivates 7·5 acres, the similar holding of an occupancy raiyat is only 3·5 acres, and of a non-occupancy raiyat 1·6 acres. The Settlement Officer has given cultivation and crop statistics complete for the whole district. Of the area cadastrally surveyed 68 per cent. is cultivated and 32 per cent. is uncultivated. The following extract from the Settlement Officer's report furnishes some interesting particulars as to the different crops grown:—

"Of the net cropped area of 1,488,560 acres, rice covers nearly 52 per cent. In Shikarpur rice covers no less than 79 per cent. of the cropped area, and in Adapur 83 per cent. After rice comes barley, which is grown on 16 per cent. of the cropped area, and then maize, kodo, and wheat, which each covers about 8 per cent. Indigo is grown on only 6 per cent. of the total area; but excluding Bagaha and Shikarpur, where the quantity grown is inconsiderable, the proportion works out to nearly 9 per cent. The largest proportion of indigo is in Kesaria thana, where it covers over 11 per cent. of the cultivated area. Sugarcane covers only 9 per cent. of the total area, but in Bagaha the proportion is nearly 3 per cent. Opium is grown on 50,147 acres, or over 3 per cent. of the cultivated area. The area is greatest in Dhaka thana, where the proportion is over 6 per cent. Tobacco only covers 1,070 acres. A small quantity of coffee is grown chiefly by Muhammadans in the Bettiah and Kesaria thanas for private consumption."

Recoveries from landlords and raiyats during the year on account of the cost of the survey and record-of-rights amounted during the year to Rs. 73,390, and altogether Rs. 1,18,567 have now been recovered. On account of the famine no attempt was made to collect from raiyats during the year, except in some villages in the Bettiah thana, where Rs. 217 only were realised.

12. Mr. M. F. Gauntlett, c.s., was in direct charge of the district of Saran throughout the year, but from 5th May to the 12th September he acted as Joint-Magistrate at Chapra in addition to his other duties. Thirteen Assistant Settlement Officers were employed in the district for various periods during the year. In this district also the attestation programme of the year was seriously curtailed on account of the famine. In all, more than one-half of the field survey and record writing, but not one-fourth of the attestation work, has been completed. During the year kharapuri work was completed in 212 square miles, and attestation on 477 square miles, while records were published in draft and finally in 615 and 998 villages respectively. The attestation programme was particularly heavy, containing no less than 1,308,708 plots; it suffered from the dislocation of work due to the famine. The numbers of disputes instituted and decided were very large, and an interesting account is given by the Settlement Officer of a few typical cases illustrating the difficulties which beset this branch of the work. In the area attested during the year, 725 cases for the settlement of fair rents were decided. One hundred fair rent cases were disposed of in the area attested in 1894-95, and 375 cases for the review of the original cases were instituted, of which 358 were decided. Altogether, the rents of

7,168 tenants were settled during the year, and were raised generally on compromise, and chiefly on the ground of excess area, from Rs. 91,215 to Rs. 96,462. Fifty-seven appeals in fair rent cases were decided by the Special Judge. In 8 cases he upheld the original decisions, in 2 modified, and in 3 reversed them. The other cases were remanded for further enquiry. During the year 6,452 objections under section 105 were disposed of, and 256 disputes were tried as civil suits under section 106. So far as statistics have been compiled, it has been ascertained that settled and occupancy raiyats hold about 78 per cent. of the tenancies. The average incidence of the rent to the acre in Saran, so far as rents have been recorded, is as follows:—

		On entire area of holdings.			On each acre cultivated.		
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Raiyats holding at fixed rates or fixed rents	...	3	8	0	3	13	9
Settled and occupancy raiyats	...	3	14	6	4	1	10
Non-occupancy raiyats	...	3	10	7	3	13	2
Under-raiyats	...	3	15	6	4	0	11

As it was evident that the cost of survey and record of rights in Saran would be greater than in Muzaffarpur and Champaran on account of the larger number of fields, tenants, and proprietors, and the consequent greater complication of the record-writing, an acreage rate of 10 annas was sanctioned for recovery in this district against 8 annas sanctioned for Muzaffarpur and Champaran. The only recovery made during the year was of a sum of Rs. 50,000 from the Hatwa Raj.

13. The Maharaja of Darbhanga and Raja Rameshwar Singh having agreed to an entire re-survey of all their estates in this district, in place of a revision of Mr. Finucane's survey, it was decided that the whole district should be surveyed professionally on the scale of 16 miles to the inch. Field survey and record-writing began during the year in the Samastipur and Dalsinghsarai thanas instead of in the north of the district, the change of programme being necessitated by the severe famine which was prevalent in the north. Mr. R. B. Hughes, c.s., was in charge of the work in addition to his duties as Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of Muzaffarpur, and three other officers were employed for various periods in the area under khanapuri. During the year khanapuri work was completed in 585 square miles. Owing to the intricate pattidari system and the dense population, the average size of a plot worked out to only .32 of an acre. Out of 1,085,010 plots found in 545 square miles disputes were filed concerning 57,602 plots. Out of this enormous number, the revenue officers could only deal with the disputes relating to 15,904 plots, and disputes affecting 41,698 plots remained to be decided at the attestation stage. Special attention has been drawn to the necessity of greater supervision at the stage of khanapuri, and arrangements will be made to increase the number of officers so employed. During the year 301 boundary disputes were disposed of, and out of 24 appeals decided, 20 were upheld, 1 modified, and 3 reversed.

Expenditure.

14. The expenditure on the operations in North Bihar was as follows:—

	SURVEY—		SETTLEMENT—		TOTAL—	
	During the year.	To end of September 1897.	During the year.	To end of September 1897.	During the year.	To end of September 1897.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Muzaffarpur	Rs. 4,362	Rs. 5,69,524	Rs. 1,19,174	Rs. 4,85,651	Rs. 1,23,536	Rs. 10,55,175
Champaran	3,314	5,07,947	87,860	3,36,776	91,174	8,44,723
Saran	63,583	3,22,604	88,135	1,86,730	1,51,718	5,09,334
Darbhangha	1,14,305	1,59,667	17,089	17,089	1,31,394	1,76,756
Total	1,85,564	15,59,742	3,12,258	10,26,286	4,97,822	25,85,988

15. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe that the value and utility of the settlement records in North Bihar was practically demonstrated in several instances during the year. Scarcity maps for the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Saran were prepared by the Settlement Department, and formed a basis of reference at the Conference held by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at Sonepur in November 1896, while the Settlement Officer draws attention to the valuable means which will be available in the crop statistics, for identifying those villages which are most largely dependent upon the rice crop and therefore most likely to suffer severely should that crop fail. The reports of the Assistant Settlement Officers while in camp were of great service in gauging the extent of distress and crop failure, while Mr. Stevenson Moore himself submitted two useful notes on the agricultural conditions of the affected area. The *parchas* in Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Saran were invariably referred to before granting advances, and furnished an easily available and reliable record of the necessity for the loan and of the security which could be offered for its repayment. In the acquisition of land for railways and other public works the settlement records were found of the greatest value in Champaran and Darbhanga, especially in the former district, where the acquisition proceedings in connection with the land taken up for famine relief works were based entirely upon the settlement survey and records. The advantages for the purpose of land acquisition proceedings of an existing survey and record prepared by a highly trained staff and previous to the acquisition proceedings are undeniable, and the Settlement Officer gives special prominence to the point that where these records are available the necessity of a further survey should be entirely obviated. The only difficulty is one of scale, the survey scale of 330 feet to the inch being smaller than the usual land acquisition scale of 150 feet to the inch. In view of the special exigencies of the famine conditions, the adoption of the survey scale was sanctioned as a special case, and was found to work well. The matter was considered by the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor in August 1897, in connection with the utilisation of the survey and settlement records in the acquisition of railway land in Orissa. Mr. Stevens was then of opinion that while it was desirable to utilise these records as far as possible, yet in the case of minute plots the scale of 330 feet to the inch was too small to be of practical value, and the decision as to the use of the survey maps in any particular case was therefore left to the land acquisition officer.

16. The questions of the maintenance of records and boundary marks were separately dealt with in Chapter II of the Director of Land Records' Annual Agricultural Report for the year ending 31st March 1897, and were reviewed in paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Government Resolution thereon, No. 842T.R., dated 8th October 1897. With regard to the registration of mutations under the Land Records Maintenance Act III (B.C.) of 1895, the Settlement Officer of North Bihar has furnished the following information as to the results obtained by the Sub-Registrars of Hajipur and Bettiah:—

	Total number of khatians.	Total number of mutations.	NUMBER REGISTERED.		Percentage of applications filed to number of khatians.	Percentage of successions to total number of khatians.
			Succession.	Other kinds.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hajipur ...	57,634	5,941	603	3,510	10.3	1.04
Bettiah ...	52,036	2,016	74	1,942	3.8	.1

The Settlement Officer reports that, from enquiries made on the spot in four selected villages in the jurisdiction of the Sub-Registry Office of Hajipur, the percentages of mutations of all sorts and of transfers by succession to the total number of holdings in the villages were found to be 13.72 and 6.38, respectively, and that similar enquiries made in four villages belonging to the Laheria

Indigo Concern in Bettiah showed that over 200 transfers had actually occurred, but that only 21 had been registered. It is therefore clear that a very small percentage of the transfers by succession that have taken place have been registered, and as long as such is not the case the utility and accuracy of the records is largely impaired. Suggestions for improving the present procedure are promised with a view of more fully attaining the objects of the Act.

16. Mr. S. L. Maddox, c.s., was in charge throughout the year, as Settlement Officer of Orissa, including the Government estate of Khurda, and Messrs. H. McPherson, c.s., J. Webster, c.s., H. Carey, c.s., D. H. Kingsford, c.s., and J. Taylor were in immediate superintending charge of the operations in Puri, Cuttack (divided into two charges), Balasore and Khurda, respectively. Forty-two additional Assistant Settlement Officers were employed for various periods during the year. The following statement shows, under the main heads, the work done during the year:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Number of Assistant Settlement Officers employed during the year or for part of the year.	Village boundary disputes decided under the Bengal Tenancy Act.	Area in square miles for which records were attested.	Number of tenants for whom rents were settled.	Number of villages for which draft records were published.	Number of objections under section 105 heard and considered after draft publication.	Number of disputes decided under section 106.	Number of villages for which records were finally published.	Number of villages for which final khatians were copied, checked and compared.	Number of estates assessed to revenue by Settlement Officer.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cuttack.										
Area under settlement, 2,278 square miles. Tenants, 880,000. Estates, 4,353.	19 to 13	None	5	264,000	1,860	13,791	273	1,263	1,005	173
Balasore.										
Area under settlement, 1,733 square miles. Tenants, 475,000. Estates, 1,674.	15 to 18	20	4	261,120	1,618	9,103	600	1,070	1,014	36
Puri.										
Area under settlement, 1,000 square miles. Tenants, 275,000. (a) Estates, 488.	13 to 4	None	None	232,320	1,736	2,943	205	1,106	1,324	101
Total temporarily-settled area	.....	20	9	557,440	5,213	31,836	1,077	2,445	4,033	311
Khurda Government Estate.										
Area, 913 (b) square miles Tenants.	13 to 4	None	278	190,412	1,301	1,706	40	681	800	.....
GRAND TOTAL	.....	20	287	1,048,462	6,513	33,542	1,315	4,126	5,799	311

(a) Exclusive of lakhraj bahal tenants.

(b) In Khurda, rents have to be settled for Government tenants in an area of about 400 square miles. The remaining area is (1) included in the Ekrajate or Revenue-free estate and (2) Forest.

The great progress made in the settlement of rents was a most satisfactory feature of the year's work.

In paragraph 11 of the Government Resolution upon the Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending 30th September 1896, reference was made to the principles upon which the draft rules had been framed for the guidance of the Settlement Officers in settling rents. Certain modifications were made in these rules after the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to Orissa in January 1897, and after a further conference in March, and the rules so modified were finally approved by the Government of India after the close of the year under report. It has been decided to fix the term of the new settlement in Orissa at 30 years. The rents of occupancy tenants are being settled for 15 years and those of non-occupancy tenants for 5. The proportion of the assets to be taken by Government as revenue in the present settlement and all other questions connected with the settlement have been finally decided on a reasonable and moderate basis, and Government has announced that, in view of the special circumstances of the present occasion, it will at this settlement be content with less than its normal share of the assets.

The results up to date of the settlement of rents in the temporarily-settled estates of Orissa are as follows:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Estimated total number of tenants.	Estimated total existing assets.	Tenants for whom rents have been settled from the beginning.	Existing assets dealt with to end of September 1897.	Settled assets down to 30th September 1897.	Increase of column 6 over column 5.	Percentage of increase of column 6 over column 5.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cuttack	850,000	17 lakhs	423,782	Rs. 10,05,088	Rs. 11,66,071	1,60,983	16
Balasore	475,000	10½ "	359,041	7,87,155	9,11,486	1,44,330	18
Puri	275,000*	6½ "	252,415	5,31,733	6,10,499	78,676	17
Total ...	1,600,000	33 lakhs	1,035,238	23,03,976	26,87,966	3,83,990	16

* Exclusive of confirmed lakhiraj tenants.

In Khurda, existing rents, aggregating Rs. 2,96,814, have been raised to Rs. 3,62,438, or by 22 per cent., and rents payable directly to Government have been raised from Rs. 2,86,812 to Rs. 3,52,708. These enhancements have been accepted by the tenants, and the new rents are being realised without any friction or difficulty. Rents of cultivated lands in Khurda are being enhanced 3 annas in the rupee on account of rise of prices since 1881, when they were last settled, and the considerable increase of cultivation. Bazaar rents are being enhanced one anna in the rupee only. In the temporarily-settled estates in Cuttack existing rents have so far been retained for 58 per cent. of the tenants, in Balasore for 55 per cent., in Puri, exclusive of Khurda, for 60 per cent., and in Khurda, for 27·72 of the tenants. Since March 1897, the percentage of rents retained has been 50 to 55. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board in thinking that the progress made in settling rents is highly satisfactory and beyond the most sanguine anticipations. The work has chiefly been conducted on the basis of express acceptances given by the tenants to the rents proposed by the Revenue Officers, and Mr. Macpherson, after personal inspection of the work in a number of camps, had satisfied himself that the tenants' acceptances were genuine. That the Settlement Officers have proceeded with care and moderation is shown by the fact that only 1,820 tenants out of 1,048,462 objected to the rents settled, and that, up to 30th September 1897, only nine appeals had been filed before the Special Judge against settled rents. Out of those appeals, six are pending, in two appeals, the Revenue Officers' findings were expressly upheld, and one appeal was dismissed. Up to the end of the year assessment reports had been prepared for 311 out of the 6,243 temporarily-settled estates in Orissa, and the Commissioner had passed orders on reports for 142 estates. It is anticipated that the existing revenue of the temporarily-settled estates, viz. Rs. 13¼ lakhs, will be increased at least to 21 lakhs, or 53·4 per cent., and of Khurda, from 3 lakhs to rather over 3½ lakhs. The expenditure of the year on settlement work in Orissa amounted to Rs. 5,28,190. The expenditure from the beginning has been on survey Rs. 10,35,294 and on settlement Rs. 16,39,881.

17. Mr. C. G. H. Allen, c.s., was Settlement Officer in Chittagong throughout the year. In addition to his settlement duties, he officiated as Collector of the district for a short time on two occasions, and as Director of Land Records from 23rd June to 6th September 1897. Five Assistant Settlement Officers were employed for the whole of the year. Out of 1,037 villages under settlement, comprising an area of 1,923 square miles, assessment has now been completed for 979, and the draft records of 959 and final records of 767 have been published. Under the programme, final publication should have been completed for the whole district, but the delay was chiefly due to the under-estimate of the number of Noabad tenants. During the year, 4,696 objections under section 105 and 41 disputes under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were dealt with. Assessment of the rents of 177,786 tenants had been made in preceding years, and that of 67,666 tenants was made during the year under report. The result of the settlement of rents during the year was that the aggregate rents

paid by the 67,666 tenants of all degrees, were raised from Rs. 1,35,521 to Rs. 1,80,187. Rents of raiyats in the mass were increased by 7 per cent., of which $\frac{1}{4}$ th was on account of excess area. Rents of raiyats paying direct to Government were increased by 10 per cent. In the case of 22,336 tenants of all degrees paying rents or revenue direct to Government, the increase made was from Rs. 58,422 to Rs. 76,671, or 31 per cent., and rents were settled in addition for previously unsettled lands to the amount of Rs. 14,168. The result of the settlement operations from the beginning in this district has been to raise the Government revenue of the Noabad lands from Rs. 3,50,940 to Rs. 5,30,121, or by 51 per cent.; and the whole increase of revenue likely to be obtained is estimated by the Settlement Officer as Rs. 1,96,500.

18. The settlement of the Palamau Government estate has now been practically completed, and the Lieutenant-Governor awaits the receipt of the completion report at an early date. The estate comprises 399 villages, exclusive of one mauza under dispute, lying in 18 tuppas, with an area of 181,050 acres, or 283 square miles (exclusive of 11 square miles of jagir or revenue-free land which were not under settlement), measured in 161,352 plots or fields. The settlement was conducted under the provisions of Act VIII (B.C.) of 1879 and on the *uttakar* system (under which rent is paid for every bigha of land within a tenant's holding) instead of on the *pariadari* system (under which up-lands are not assessed). Mr. D. Sunder continued to be in charge of the work till the beginning of February 1897, when he was placed on famine duty. He returned to settlement work in July 1897. The work done during the year consisted chiefly of the distribution to raiyats of *parchas*; explanation to raiyats of the *jamabandis* published under section 9 of Act VIII (B.C.) of 1879; the revision of boundaries of villages and formation of blocks of protected forest; the compilation of statistics and the preparation of the completion report for the settlement.

The result of the settlement has been to give a rental of Rs. 74,433 as compared with rents settled in 1865, amounting to Rs. 40,892, and against an attested rental of Rs. 57,693 paid to the *thikadars*. The rates of rent are practically the same as those of the last settlement, and the increase is due to extended cultivation. Rs. 3,270 have been settled as the rent of *mahua* trees, and Rs. 10,087 as the rent of *palas* and *kusum* trees. The increase of rental from all sources thus amounts to Rs. 46,947. There was no appeal against the assessment. The new rents were brought into effect from September 1896. The average rents per cultivated acre are—

				Rs.	A.	P.
Settled	rai-yats	...	...	1	3	0
Occupancy	"	...	..	1	6	8
Non-occupancy	"	...	...	0	14	7

The *thikadari* system has been abandoned, and the estate has been brought under khas management. The expenditure of the year on the settlement amounted to Rs. 7,650, and the total cost of the operations, exclusive of survey, is shown by the Settlement Officer as Rs. 43,436. The cost of survey was Rs. 79,165.

19. The area under resettlement in the Darjeeling Terai is 230.15 square miles, consisting of 824 jotes, 91 thirty-year lease grants, 17 market sites, and 3 blocks of khas land. The principal work done during the year was that of assessment. The Government has, as a matter of grace, conceded to the jotedars a limit of enhancement of 50 per cent. on the rents now paid by them. The resettlement of the jotes is expected to result in an increase of 22 per cent. on the existing revenue of Rs. 88,548. In the case of the 30-year grants, it has been found that the provisions of the existing leases which limit the re-assessments to half rates will only allow very small enhancements. The term of the new settlement has been fixed at 20 years, and the new revenue has been brought into effect from the *kist* of January 1898. The expenditure incurred on this settlement up to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 20,240, exclusive of the cost of survey.

20. The Kolhan estate comprises 911 villages with an aggregate area of 1,403·7 square miles. Its settlement was conducted under no specific law, but the procedure adopted followed, as far as possible, the settlement laws in force. The traverse survey of the estate was made by a professional party, but the field survey was supervised by the Settlement Officer, Mr J. A. Craven, who also conducted the settlement proceedings, with the help of two Assistant Settlement Officers of junior rank and under the guidance of the Board. The work done during the year comprised the survey of 173 villages with an area of 281·8 square miles, comprising 8,521 holdings and 151,445 plots; extraction and checking of field areas, comparing *khatians* with *khasras*, copying of the *khatians*, preparation of abstract *khatian*, and *jamabandi*; attestation of *khatians* for 8,521 holdings; calculation of the rents of holdings; preparation of *parchas* and compilation of statistical statements for 173 villages; disposal of 196 boundary disputes, 1,343 jote disputes and 1,414 cases of disputed sales and mortgages; in addition to the work connected with the exclusion and demarcation of the excess protected forests, and enumeration of all fruit trees and all *mahua*, *kusum*, *asan* and *palas* trees in the estate, and preparation of a record of those trees for each village. The only work remaining is the issue of pattas and of records of rights to the *Mankis* and *Mondas*. The former aggregate rents, amounting to Rs. 64,828, have been raised to Rs. 1,77,300, or by 173·5 per cent. The cost of survey and settlement during the year was Rs. 45,312, and the total cost of the operations has been Rs. 1,88,256. The rate of cost per square mile is Rs. 134, and per acre 3 annas and 4½ pies only. This low rate, and the large increase obtained by this settlement, reflect great credit on the Settlement Officer; and, as the Board have observed, it is a satisfactory feature of this large settlement that it has been completed at less cost than was originally estimated.

In the course of the operations the survey and record of rights of 10 *lakhiraj* villages within the boundaries of the estate were made, at the cost of the *lakhirajdars*, under the supervision of the Settlement Officer. A survey of all lands within the Chaibassa Municipality was also made under his supervision.

21. The estates of the Raja of Hill Tippera, in Tippera and Noakhali, known as Chakla Roshnabad, comprise an area of 556·85 square miles, with 1,507 villages. Mr. J. G. Cumming, c.s., was the Settlement Officer throughout the year, up till the 27th July. He resumed charge after the close of the year. Six Assistant Settlement Officers were employed during the year, chiefly on attestation and case work. The completion of the programme for the year was interfered with by the withdrawal of officers for famine work. The records of 600 villages were attested, and the records were wholly draft published in 112 villages and in part in 210, and finally published in 88. During the year the rents of 3,297 raiyats and 277 tenure-holders were settled, resulting in an enhancement of raiyats' rents from Rs. 33,224 to Rs. 39,836, or by 19·8 per cent., and of tenure-holders' rents from Rs. 8,272 to Rs. 13,458, or by 62·6 per cent. The enhancements were made partly on the ground of rise in the price of rice, but mostly on the ground of excess area. Seventy-five appeals against decisions in the fair rent cases were decided, with the result that the decisions of the Settlement Officer and of his assistants were upheld in 61 cases, reversed in 2 cases, and modified in 5 cases, while 7 cases were remanded for rehearing. Two hundred and ninety-eight appeals were pending before the Special Judge in fair rent cases at the end of the year. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets the delay that has occurred in disposal of the settlement appeals, and hopes that the appointment of an Additional Judge made in October 1897 will have the effect of hastening the conclusion of this protracted and difficult settlement. Progress on the settlement continues to be slow, the attitude of the raiyats being reported to be one of stubborn unreasonableness at the outset, followed by mild interest. The statistics tabulated during the year show that out of 54,758 holdings 49,551 are held by settled or occupancy raiyats paying an average rent of Rs. 3-10-9 per acre. The expenditure incurred on settlement work during the year was Rs. 63,005-8-5, the total expenditure down to the end of the year having been Rs. 3,94,816, or at the rate of 17 annas 6 pies an acre so far as the work has gone.

22. Operations in the Gaya district are in progress in the Tikari Ward's estate, the Government estates and the Belkhara mahal, and are under one staff under the general supervision of Mr. Stevenson-Moore. The work in this district is practically at an end, and the final report is awaited. The area and number of villages under survey are as follows:—

Name of estate.	Area in square miles.	Number of villages.
1	2	3
1. Tikari Ward's estate ...	384.63	551
2. Government estates ...	102.00	118
3. Belkhara mahal ...	97.28	89
Total ...	583.91	758

The survey and record-writing of the Tikari Ward's estate were completed during 1895-96, and the following work was done in this and the Belkhara estate (which is partly the property of Government and partly of the Tikari Ward) during the year under report:—

Village boundary disputes decided under Survey Act.	RECORDS ATTESTED FOR—			Rents settled for tenants.	Draft records published for villages.	Objections under section 105 decided and considered.	Disputes under section 105 decided.	Records finally published.
	Villages.	Square miles.	Tenants.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	93	101.35	9,797	11	93	557	18	146

The work done during the year in the Government estates was as follows:—

Records attested for—		Rents settled for tenants.	Draft records published for villages.	Objections under section 105 disposed of.	Final records published for villages.
Square miles.	Tenants.				
12.84	615	427	68	73	102

Rents were settled for 3,280 tenants in all in Government villages; for 451 tenants existing rents were retained as fair; for 26 tenants rents were settled *ex parte*, and 3,254 tenants accepted the rents settled. In the 103 villages dealt with rents have been raised in the aggregate from Rs. 52,040 to Rs. 55,763, or by 9.33 per cent. In 961 holdings contained in 40 villages produce rents have been commuted to cash rents to the amount of Rs. 10,651. The average size of a tenancy is about 7 acres in each estate. The soil of the Government estate is by far the least fertile, and this estate also comprises the greatest quantity of waste land. The average rates of rent paid by occupancy and non-occupancy raiyats are—

	Occupancy raiyats.				Non-occupancy raiyats.		
	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Tikari estates ...	4	4	4	per acre.	2	11	11
Government estates ...	3	5	9	"	1	9	9
Belkhara mahal ...	4	9	1	"	5	9	9

The high rates in the Belkhara mahal are due to the fertility of the land. It is a noticeable fact that non-occupancy raiyats on the Tikari and Government estates pay at lower rates than occupancy raiyats; the reason alleged is the inferior quality of the land held by them.

The following statement compares the percentages of rent-paying tenants according to status:—

NAME OF ESTATE.	Total number of raiyats.	Percentage of raiyats at fixed rate.	Percentage of occupancy raiyats	Percentage of non-occupancy raiyats.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Tikari Ward's estate ..	31,257	6.8	89.9	4.3
2. Government estates ...	6,137	0.4	86.3	13.3
3. Belkhara mahal ...	8,003	0.26	91.5	8.2

23. The following statement shows the progress of operations and the cost incurred in the smaller surveys and settlements dealt with by the Superintendent of Settlement-Surveys and by the Director of Land Records during the year:—

Estates.	Number of villages.	Area in square miles.	SURVEY.		SETTLEMENT.					Total cost of survey and settle- ment to end of the year
			Traverse during 1896-97.	Cadastral during 1896-97.	Attestation number of villages.		Settlement of fair rent to end of the year.			
					During 1896-97.	To end of 1896-97.	Number of tenants.	Former rental.	New rental.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Government estates.</i>										
				Sq. miles.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Pataspur estates in Midna- pore.	96	54.7	.....	.....	.....	96	15,062	51,242	63,419	50,140
2. Jaipur estates in Bogra ...	156	55.5	.....	.....	156	247	5,766	39,333	51,061	41,880
3. Backergunge estates ...	31	61.93	.....	4.62	1	30	6,232	1,64,290	1,78,967	42,027
4. Nonkhali " ...	11	97.00	.....	97.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51,088
5. Shahabad " ...	20	18.32	.....	.....	.....	20	658	10,764	22,026	3,374
Total ...	314	287.45	.....	101.62	127	303	28,018	2,64,549	3,16,363	1,00,299
<i>Private estates.</i>										
1. Chaurasi estate in 24 Parganas	43	33*	.....	.....	.....	43	14,377	21,876	28,595	18,000
2. Gangamandal in Tippera ...	4	2.69	.....	.....	1	4	162	1,133	1,367	1,691
3. Falpara " ...	11	3.19	.....	.....	.....	11	231	.....	.....	2,685
4. Tantibunia in Khulna ...	8	19.95	.....	.....	.....	8	150	10,232	12,067	11,675
5. Obikantandi in Backergunge	17	27.24	.....	.....	.....	9	1,455	.....	.....	6,516
Total ...	83	60.07	.....	.....	3	75	16,381	33,241	42,929	41,461
<i>Wards' estates.</i>										
1. Narhan estate in Monghyr ...	60	48.19	.....	.....	60	60	50	1,363	1,378	21,228
GRAND TOTAL ...	457	421.71	.....	.....	190	528	44,449	2,99,083	3,60,670	2,31,661

* Includes cost of topographical survey of other estates with an area of 245 square miles.

24. Record-writing, attestation and settlement of fair rents in the Pataspur temporarily-settled estates had been completed in previous years. During the year under report, khatians of the under-tenants, of *bazyafidars*, of under-raiyats, and of raiyats of nij-jote lands, were prepared and attested in 96 villages, khatians were published in draft for all those villages except one, and rents were settled for 4,938 such tenants. Under section 105, 2,850 objections were disposed of and 10 disputes under section 106 were decided. The final publication of the records was made for 88 villages, and the police *paikan* lands were assessed. It has been decided to take as Government revenue 65 per cent. of the assets ascertained at the present settlement, leaving the balance of 35 per cent. to the proprietors. The result of this assessment will be to raise the present Government revenue of Rs. 34,078 by Rs. 6,700, or 18 per cent. The term of the new settlement has been fixed at 15 years. The work has not made altogether

satisfactory progress, but the unhealthiness of the locality is against it.

25. In the Jaipur Government Estates records for 126 villages, with an area of 49.9 square miles, were attested and re-attested in the year under report. Rents were settled for 5,766 tenants during the year in the Government estates and for 220 tenants on the application of the landlords of a private estate comprised in the villages under survey. The result of the settlement, as reported at the end of September, has been that existing rents payable to Government, aggregating Rs. 39,233, have been raised to Rs. 51,051; in the private estate, rents aggregating Rs. 927 have been raised to Rs. 1,162. The general principle followed in fixing the present rates which show great inequalities has been to equalise them on the general legal basis of the rise in the price of rice. Records were published in draft for 155 villages and finally for 119 villages during the year. The Settlement Officer during the year disposed of 610 objections preferred after draft publication, leaving 13 ending at the end of the year; no disputes under section 106 were instituted.

26. There were seven Government estates and temporarily-settled estates, with an aggregate area of 39,632 acres, or 61.93 square miles, under settlement under the Bengal Tenancy Act in the district of Backergunge during the year, in addition to the settlement under the old Regulations, of 51 petty estates with an aggregate area of 22 square miles. During the year the settlement operations were completed in the estates Padma Manesha, Heshamuddin and Krishnapura, and completion reports were submitted. In Tushkhali rents were settled and the records published in draft, and in Kalupara the survey and initial record-writing were completed.

27. Fifteen Government estates in Shahabad, covering 18 square miles and containing 20 villages, were under settlement under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Survey, record-writing and attestation were completed before the year under report, but the records were re-attested during the year. Rents of all the 958 rent-paying tenants in the estates were settled, the former rental of Rs. 19,784 being raised, almost entirely on the ground of rise of prices, to Rs. 22,926. No appeals were preferred to the Special Judge. For 14 out of the 15 estates records were finally published before the close of the year 1304 *Fasli* (11th September 1897).

28. *Chaurasi estate in the 24-Parganas.*—The Chaurasi Estate in the 24-Parganas comprises 43 villages, with an area of 20,399 acres. Its settlement was undertaken on the application of the proprietors, Maharaja Durga Charan Law and others. Survey, *khasra* -writing and attestation of records were completed in previous years. Rents for 697 out of 800 tenancies held direct from the proprietor have been settled, and final publication of records for all villages was made between September and December 1896. The total rent payable to the proprietors was raised from Rs. 21,876 to Rs. 28,595, or by 30 per cent., by assessment of excess area and by enhancement of the abnormally low rents in some parts of the estate. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets the delay that has occurred in the disposal of appeals to the Special Judge. Out of 191 such appeals, only 12 had been decided up to 30th September 1897. The total cost of survey and settlement was Rs. 19,052, or 14 annas 2 pies per acre.

29. *Tantibania estate in Khulna.*—The only work done during the year was the disposal of 2 cases under section 104 and 5 cases under section 106 of the Tenancy Act remanded in appeal by the Special Judge. This necessitated the republication in draft of portions of the records of 4 villages and final publication for a second time of portions of 5 villages.

The settlement work in other private estates during the year does not call for special remark.

30. *Dakhin Shahbazpur and Srirampur estates in Backergunge.*—The settlement work in these estates was completed before the year under report. Sums aggregating Rs. 14,725 and Rs. 6,873 were recovered in Dakhin Shahbazpur and Srirampur during the year, leaving balances of Rs. 3,106 and Rs. 81 only to be recovered out of Rs. 78,261 and Rs. 9,426. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Director of Land Records that the results of the recovery work were satisfactory.

31. *Narhan estate in Monghyr*.—Little work remains to be done in the Narhan estate, but the work during the year under report was interfered with by the fact that the services of the Settlement Officer were required for famine duty. Sixty villages with an area of 48·19 square miles were surveyed and khanapuried in 1895-96; and during the year under report records for these villages, which contain 11,097 tenants, were attested, rents were settled for 50 tenants, records were published in draft for 28 villages, and two objections under section 105 of the Tenancy Act were disposed of.

32. A Bill to amend sections 30, 31, 39, 52 and 119 and Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council on 3rd April 1897, the changes proposed being to clear up doubts and difficulties of procedure which have arisen in the course of experience in the working of Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885; to facilitate the settlement of rents when undertaken on a large scale either for the purpose of settling land revenue or on the application of private individuals; to amend the substantive law relating to the enhancement and reduction of rents, so as to make certain provisions of the law workable, and to give effect to the intention of its authors regarding certain points on which, owing to want of sufficient clearness in the wording of the law or to the interpretations put on it by the Civil Courts, it has been found in practice to be inoperative. The Bill was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* and circulated for opinion among Revenue and Judicial Officers, the Chambers of Commerce and the different public Associations. On receipt of these opinions a revised Bill was prepared, and has been passed by the Bengal Council.

34. Mr. W. C. Macpherson has recently vacated the post of Director of Land Records, which he had filled with marked ability and credit since 1892, and the Lieutenant-Governor fully agrees with the praise bestowed by the Board upon the zeal, energy and devotion with which he has worked, and upon the successful results which he has achieved during the period of his incumbency. The magnitude of the work done by the Settlement Department in Bengal and Bihar since the passing of the Tenancy Act is obscured by the fact of its being done so quietly and with so little friction, but its extent will be understood from the fact that in the year under review an area of more than 22,000 square miles was under survey and record-of-rights and that rents were settled for more than a million tenants in this one year. For the results achieved the Director of Land Records and the Settlement Officers deserve the warm thanks of Government. His Honour also desires to thank Captain Crichton, Superintendent of Settlement-Surveys, and Captain Symonds for the excellent work done by them during the year. With regard to the other officers named in paragraphs 50 and 51 of the Director of Land Records' Report (a copy of which will be communicated to the Appointment Department), Sir Alexander Mackenzie cordially endorses the following remarks made by the Director of Land Records:—

"The Settlement Officers and Assistant Settlement Officers below named rendered specially good service during the year, viz., Messrs. C. G. H. Allen, A. S. Carey, J. G. Cumming, M. Gauntlett, R. Hughes, J. Kerr, D. S. Kingsford, H. McPherson, S. L. Maddox, C. J. Stevenson-Moore, W. B. Thomson, J. Webster, Babu Rai Krishna Bahadur, Babu Prasanna Kumar Banerjee, Babu Sriram Chandra Basu, Babu Pyari Mohan Basu, Babu Sri Gopal Bhattacharjya, Babu Durga Charan Ghose, Maulvi Gholam Ghous, Babu Gobind Chandra Das Gupta, Maulvi Ashfaq Husain, Pandit Rama Ballabh Misra, Babu Jogendra Narayan Mitra, Mr. J. Taylor.

"Mr. Allen, Settlement Officer of Chittagong, has an exceptional knowledge of revenue work; he has carried out the settlement of Chittagong with great success. Mr. Maddox, who holds in Orissa the most difficult and most responsible settlement post in the Province, continues to do excellent work. He has pushed on the work of settling rents with great success, and he is now ably and thoroughly dealing with the work of assessing the land revenue. Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore supervises settlement work in five Bihar districts with great ability and complete grasp of the principles and details of the work. I would desire to call special attention to Mr. Stevenson-Moore's well-written and interesting reports. Mr. Cumming in Tippera by tact and ability has overcome obstructions and difficulties; Mr. Cumming is conspicuous for his sound and well thought out methods of work and for his attention to details."

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 4th April 1898.

Burdwan.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of potatoes and *boro* paddy in progress. *Til* being sown. Fodder and water sufficient. Some cattle-pox reported. Common rice selling as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	12 to 16	} per rupee.
Kalna	13	
Katwa	13½ to 14	
Raniganj	14 to 15	

Birbhum.—No rain. Weather hot. Pressing of sugarcane almost over. Manuring of fields commenced. No want of fodder. Price of common rice at Sadar 13·8 seers, and at Rampur Hât 14·8 seers per rupee.

Bankura.—No rain. Weather hot. Pressing of sugarcane over. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Price of common rice 15 seers a rupee at Sadar and Vishnupur.

Midnapore.—Rainfall in Ghatal 41. Prospect of indigo fair. Sugarcane is being planted. *Boro* is being reaped in Keshpur. Prices of common rice:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	13	} per rupee.
Contai	15 to 16	
Tamluk	13	
Ghatal	13	

Hooghly.—No rain. Weather hotter. Rain wanted for tillage of lands. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells from 11 to 13½ seers per rupee.

Howrah.—No rain. Weather hot. In Ulubaria *boro* withering for want of rain. Harvesting of *rabi* finished. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells at 10 to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. Prospects of standing crops fair. Rain is very badly wanted for tillage of lands. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	10 to 13	} per rupee.
Barasat	12½	
Basirhat	12½	
Diamond Harbour	13	

Nadia.—No rain. Weather hot. *Rabi* harvest nearly over. Ploughing continues. Rain badly wanted in places. Common rice sells at 11 to 14 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient. Water becoming scarce in parts. Cattle-disease in thana Kotwali.

Murshidabad.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *rabi* crops still continues. Prospects of indigo and mulberry are hopeful. Fodder sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	13½	} per rupee.
Jangipur	15	
Kandi	14½	

Jessore.—No rain. Weather warmer than previous week. Prospects of standing crops good. Rain badly wanted for sowing of *aus* and jute crops. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	11 to 13	} per rupee.
Magura	11-7 ch. to 12	
Narail	11-6 ch.	
Bangaon	12 to 14	

Khulna.—No rain. Weather hot. Prospect of *boro* worse for want of rain. Cultivation of *aus* begun. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	12 to 14	} per rupee.
Bagerhat	14½	
Satkhira	14½	

Rajshahi.—No rain. Weather much hotter. Prospects of standing crops good. Rain wanted. Transplantation of *boro* paddy going on. Condition of cattle good. Fodder and water plentiful. Rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Rain wanted. Lands being prepared for *bhadoi* crops. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall nil. Days hot and nights pleasant. Lands are being prepared for *bhadoi* and jute. Rain badly wanted. Harvesting of tobacco and other *rabi* crops going on. No want of fodder and drinking-water. Common rice sells from 12 to 15 seers per rupee.

Darjeeling.—Rainfall at Darjeeling 50, Kurseong 20. Weather seasonable. Hills—Wheat, barley and potatoes progressing; *bhutta* being sown. Terai—*Bhadoi* and sugarcane being planted and jute sown. Coarse rice sells as follows:—

Hills	...	...	...	...	8 to 11 seers per rupee.
Terai	...	...	...	...	13 to 15 " "

Bhutta sells from 17 to 30 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—No rain. Ploughing for jute and sowing of *aus* continue. Weeding of *aus* going on. Rain needed on light soils. Harvesting of *rabi* crops in progress; prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient except at Kurigram, where they are reported scarce in places. Good drinking-water also reported scarce in places at Gaibanda.

Bogra.—Rainfall nil. Lands being prepared for jute and *aus*. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling at 12 to 14½ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops continue good. Rain wanted. Fodder sufficient. Price of common rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Dacca.—Rainfall at Sadar 1, sub-division nil. Weather very hot. Lands being prepared for cultivation of jute and *aus*. Rain is much wanted. Fodder available. Want of good drinking-water felt in the interior of the district. No cattle-disease. Price of common rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall at Sadar 21, Kishorganj 1·16, Netrokona 14. Weather warm and cloudy. Lands under preparation for jute and *aus* paddy. Rain wanted. Price of common rice 10 to 12½ seers per rupee.

Faridpur.—No rain. Weather hot. Prospects fair. Rain wanted. Price of rice 12 to 13 seers per rupee.

Backergunge.—Rainfall nil. Weather warm. Rain wanted for crops. Common rice sells from 9 to 13 seers per rupee. No cattle-disease reported.

Tippera.—No rain. Nights and mornings pleasant with intermittent clouds, but noons sultry. Rain badly wanted. Preparation of land for paddy and jute continues. Gathering of pulses over, but that of chillies continues. Price of rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—Rainfall nil. Ploughing continues. Rain much wanted. Cattle-disease reported from Senbag. Condition of fodder and water not good. Price of common rice 10 to 14 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—No rain. *Rabi* crops being harvested; probable outturn estimated below the average. Fodder bad and drinking-water scarce in the wave-swept area. Rice selling at 12 seers per rupee.

Patna.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* almost finished. Extraction of opium completed and weighment commenced. Prices almost stationary. In Patna common rice sells at 16½ seers per rupee. Fodder and water for cattle plentiful.

Gaya.—No rain. Opium collection over. *Rabi* harvesting continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice sells at 14 seers, barley 21 seers, wheat 13 seers, gram 18 seers, and *arhar* 16 seers per rupee.

Shahabad.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* nearly completed. Sowing of *china* and sugarcane continuing. Sugarcane pressing going on. Cattle-disease reported from one village in Sasaram. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Saran.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* harvest nearly finished. Sowing of indigo in progress. Average prices are—common rice 13 seers and *makai* 21 seers 6 chittacks, against 9 seers 6½ chittacks and 10 seers 2 chittacks per rupee respectively last year.

Champanan.—No rain. Weather getting warm. Harvesting of *rabi* continues; yield satisfactory. Lands being prepared for *bhadoi* and *aghani*. Common rice and maize sell at Sadar at 18½ and 21 seers per rupee respectively, against average 15½ and 20½ seers.

Musaffarpur.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* continues. Paddy and *mung* being sown. Prospects good. Prices are—common rice 10 to 13 seers, wheat 13 seers, barley 22 seers, *makai* 20 seers, gram 16 seers, *rahar* 16 seers, and *marua* 22 seers per rupee.

Darbhanga.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *rabi* in progress. Lands being prepared for *bhadoi* at Madhubani. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells at 12 seers per rupee at Sadar.

Monghyr.—No rain. Days hot; nights cool. Harvesting of *rabi* nearly finished. Prospects favourable. *Mahua* and mango prospects good. No cattle-disease. Common rice sells as follows:—

Monghyr	...	...	...	12 to 15 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	11½ to 13½ „ „
Jamui	...	...	...	15 „ „

Bhagalpur.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *rabi* crops advancing. *Mahua* flowers being gathered in Banka. Indigo doing well. No cattle-disease except a few cases at Protapganj in the Supaul subdivision. Coarse rice sells at 14 seers per rupee at Sadar.

Purnea.—No rain. Days hot; nights cool. *Rabi* harvest begun. Lands being ploughed for *bhadoi* and jute crops. A few cases of cattle-disease reported from Araria. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	15 seers per rupee.
Kishanganj	...	...	...	15 „ „
Araria	...	...	...	17 „ „

Malda.—No rain. Weather getting warm. Harvesting of *rabi* crops progressing with good result everywhere. Lands are being prepared for jute and *bhadoi* crops. No want of drinking-water and fodder. Common rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Sonthal Parganas.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *Mahua* is now falling in abundance, and promises a good crop. Fodder scanty and water becoming so. Average price of rice 13 seers 15 chittacks, and of maize 18 seers 4 chittacks per rupee. No cattle-disease.

Cuttack.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. Threshing of *guru sarad* and pressing of sugarcane proceeding. *Dalua* and tobacco growing well. Condition of cattle generally good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

					Srs. ch.
Cuttack	...	...	...	...	15 12
Jajpur	...	...	...	...	18 6
Kendrapara	...	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	...	17 15

per rupee.

Balasore.—Rainfall nil. Threshing of *sarad* and harvesting of *rabi* crops continue. *Dalua* ripening. Cotton growing well. Sugarcane being pressed. Sporadic cases of cattle-disease reported from parts. Price of rice varies from 16 to 19 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 15 and 18 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively. Fodder and water sufficient.

Angul.—No rain. Weather dry and hot. Price of rice stationary. Cattle-disease reported from Angul.

Puri.—No rain. Rain badly wanted for all crops of this season. Ploughing of lands for next *sarad* crop being delayed. Summer rice crop in ear. *Mung* being harvested in places. Prospects of cotton, tobacco, and other *rabi* crops generally good. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Price of common rice almost stationary.

Hazaribagh.—Weather hot. Prospects of *mahua* and mango good. Price of rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—No rain. Reaping of *rahar*, and wheat nearly finished. Prospect of *mahua* good. Rice sells at Ranchi 11 seers, and in the interior from 12 to 16 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palamanu.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* being harvested; 12 annas' outturn expected. *Mahua* falling. Price of rice 12 seers per rupee. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient.

Manbhum.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops good. Fodder and drinking-water sufficient. No cattle disease reported. Average price of common rice at Sadar 15 seers and at Gobindpur 14 seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

General Summary.—There was rain in parts of Darjeeling and Mymensingh, and also at Ghatal and in Dacca town. General rain is wanted for ploughing and for sowing of the autumn crops. The spring crops in a few districts are also in need of rain. The *rabi* harvest is proceeding, and a good outturn is generally expected. The collection of opium is over, and the weighments have begun. The pressing of sugarcane is almost finished, and in some districts fresh cuttings are being planted. The *matua* crop in the Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions is promising. Prices remained almost the same as in the previous week. Cattle-disease is still reported from Burdwan, Nadia, Noakhali, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Balasore, Angul, and Lohardaga. There is a deficiency of fodder-supply in parts of Rangpur, Chittagong and the Sonthal Parganas, and of drinking water-supply in the same parts and also in parts of Nadia and Dacca.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

The 5th April 1898.

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

The following Statement shows the Quantities of the principal Staples of Traffic imported into Calcutta from the Interior by Rail, Road, River (Country-boat and Steamer), and Canal during the month of October 1897.

IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.

Whence imported.	FOOD-GRAINS.										FIBROUS PRODUCTS.			OILSEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.	
	RICE AND PADDY.			Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.	Lined.	Mustard seed.	Refined.	Unrefined.	Unmanufactured.	Manufactured.									
	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).																					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
BENGAL.																								
Burdwan	11,032	24,500	26,358	60	378	20	26,838	1,513	16,563	1,092	2			117	22,72,597		18	131						
Birbhum	1,098		1,098		83	41	1,319		3,305	605				129	7,074			17	4					
Medinipur	1,03,757	13,750	1,12,308		781		1,13,158		5,043	116				136	1,183			1,529						
Hooghly	79,831	25,504	95,971		2,660		98,631		199,310	2,644				44	1,183			3,757						
24-Parganas	77,805	12,450	85,773		109		86,905		274,499	1,350				171	4,008			7,492						
Nadia	13,583	182	12,738		363		41,714		19,407	9,977				290				6,917						
Murshidabad	607	25	674		103		16,845		1,046	7,003				260				11						
Jessore	607	25	632		670		1,051		1,21,799	903				6				3,135						
Khulna	706	40	737		364		780		12,300	803				75				40						
Rajshahi	387		387		46		405		1,72,890	81				303										
Duajpur	387		387		46		405		67,870															
Jaipur	387		387		46		405		91,985															
Darjeeling	270		270				270		1,11,100	346														
Rangpur	270		270				270		13,930															
Bogra	4		4				4		32,733															
Patna	4		4				4		6,47,695															
Cooch Bihar	4		4				4		6,415															
Decca	2		2		194		194		16,10,720	209				64										
Myensingh	2		2				2		3,22,353	1,734														
Fariapur	2		2				2		3,49,826	1,889														
Backergunge	68,693		68,693		1		68,693		2,100	375														
Tippera	1		1				1		10,553	290														
No-khali	650		650				650		700	150				80										
Obttagong					10		10		1,71,254	160				540										
Total of Bengal	3,53,515	76,487	4,30,002	1,565	42,310	235	4,50,249	54,03,632	9,08,457	34,708	33,531			2,067	32,84,967		10,311	21,833	44,680	2,717				
Bihar.																								
Patna	20		20		27,977	2,459	30,436		1,120	73,430	10,378							45						
Shahabad	2		2		5,273	4	6,025		4,310	10,680	1,272													
Baran					1,388	484	1,872		805	7,479	3,678													
Champuram					854	1,095	1,949		460	13,014	1,259													
Muzaffarpur					42,337	738	43,075		770	22,846	17,155													
Arrah					1,779	738	2,517		380	8,743	11,084													
Monbhanga					1,103	6,252	7,355		290	10,743	23,139													
Benapur	1		1		601	34	635		1,179	2,101	4,733													
Purnea	4		4		701	8	705		13,945	699	937													
Madia	6		6		710	7,616	8,326		1,575	3,810	30,477													
Semhal Parganas																								
Total of Bihar	23		23	5,153	63,047	20,311	1,09,493	1,50,636	27,035	1,59,254	1,07,463			31				67		2,901	5,698		731	

* One mowad of paddy is equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacturers.

Whereas imported.	FOOD-GRAINS.											OILSEEDS.		FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Sift. raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.	
	RICE AND PADDY.				Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags, †	Linseed.		Mustard seed.	No.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags, †	Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Sift. raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	Refined.	Unrefined.	Manufactured.
	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).																					
1	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Orissa.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Cuttack	4,578	15,945	4,578	4,578	180	4,758	4,758	4,758	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
Balasore	60,847	15,945	76,792	76,792	3,404	80,196	80,196	80,196	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
Total of Orissa	74,225	15,945	90,170	90,170	3,584	84,586	84,586	84,586	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
CHOTA NAGPUR.																								
Bazarbagh																								
Ranchbhum																								
Singbhum																								
Total of Chota Nagpur.																								
Grand Total of supplies from the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Ben.	4,32,830	38,440	4,71,270	4,71,270	4,186	1,29,031	20,540	6,44,704	36,54,800	303,713	1,03,900	1,40,304	73,037	4,373	2,115	46,34,121	10,311	24,756	83,898	2,448				
OTHER PROVINCES.																								
Bombay	16		10	10	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
North-Western Prov. and Oudh.	17		17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Punjab																								
Central Provinces																								
Bengal and Central India.																								
Bihar																								
Madras	16		16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Other places	4,28,937	4,063	4,32,999	4,32,999	548	4,33,547	4,33,547	4,33,547	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890	1,890
Grand Total (1897)	9,10,080	90,946	9,99,026	9,99,026	1,60,786	8,38,240	84,636	13,19,868	85,00,508	1,04,333	2,34,683	1,54,439	40,001	2,146	46,34,121	1,741	61,783	25,015	53,309	2,448				
of imports in October	9,48,687	2,73,371	12,22,058	12,22,058	3,23,830	6,98,228	44,606	19,56,868	57,07,809	1,965,377	3,00,003	1,91,463	67,327	1,810	38,00,735	24,543	77,094	90,394	46,361	4,844				

* One mowal of paddy is equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.

II.

The Sea-borne Trade of Calcutta in these Staples during the month of October 1897 was as follows :—

EXPORTED FROM CALCUTTA.	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.	
															Refined.	Unrefined.	Unmanufactured.	Manufactured.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sea ports,	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Bay ...	1,952	80	1,971	.....	60	.....	2,031	.....	1,979,210	.....	373	1,341	.....	90	405	.....	...	2
Sea ports in Bay ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	139,200	.....	.....	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sea ports in Bay ...	2,289	.....	2,339	301	5,401	580	8,680	97	127,100	.....	547	28	.....	329	75	.....	339	12
Sea ports in Bay ...	.....	.....	.....	446	228	27	525	4,801	236,000	.....	1,296	10	.....	2	75	.....	...	25
Sea ports in Bay ...	1,963	.....	1,953	2,621	12,461	1,002	23,986	233	362,000	.....	61	162	331	9	439	683	24,618	946
Indian	80	.....	80	1,157	1,564	.....	2,623	27	79,034	.....	.....	4	.....	4	1,937	61	1,383	61
Cherry ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....
of Inter-trade ...	6,273	80	6,293	10,035	19,858	1,618	38,296	5,218	2,942,644	.....	2,370	1,575	231	334	2,980	716	24,233	1,067
Sea ports - Kingdom	36,036	.....	36,036	.....	3,763	.....	40,299	2,19,901	2,037,700	1,42,206	5,459	2,33,166	807	739	.....	.....	...	7
Foreign	1,91,017	80	1,91,084	602	21,463	1,625	2,15,054	25,52,615	16,320,700	26,921	94,661	24,014	7,885	912	46	.....	929	132
Foreign	2,27,683	80	2,27,693	902	25,226	1,625	2,55,429	26,72,708	18,267,400	1,79,127	1,06,120	2,57,170	8,392	1,951	45	.....	929	130
Total (1897)	2,23,926	80	2,23,983	11,487	45,084	2,251	2,23,740	28,77,964	21,210,044	1,79,127	1,02,806	2,58,745	8,683	1,966	2,085	716	27,292	1,226
over (1896)	2,24,616	80	2,24,677	4,505	52,067	9,971	2,21,210	24,06,483	12,019,560	2,23,381	63,700	1,32,651	23,280	2,188	6,124	481	16,041	803

III.

IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.

The following statement shows the several routes followed by the Trade in the Principal Staples of Traffic imported into Calcutta during the month of October 1897.

LOCATION OF ORIGINS.	FOOD-GRAINS.					FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		OILSEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and Coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.	
	Rice.	Paddy.	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food- grains.	Jute, raw.	Gunny- bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.						Re- fined.	Un- refined.	Unmanu- factured.	Manufac- tured.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Sea boats ...	2,83,788	86,912	1,975	24,265	1,896	9,89,258	494,572	21,946	87,212	.....	4,611	442	8,916	...	6,240	17,481	10,280	1,086
Steamers ...	19,502	1,237	149	8,939	.....	12,73,211	9,875	12,796	43,831	1,40,219	149	709	.....	...	4,479	46	432	...
R. I. Railway	5,127	26,490	1,53,207	1,08,991	23,415	2,11,787	64,126	1,95,771	1,01,096	1,277	22,962	806	46,13,911	1,730	17	2,122	2,865	769
R. E. S. Rail- way.	7,133	23	...	6,962	17	27,68,199	467,180	3,167	10,301	70,483	209	447	.....	...	...	2,617	24,800	...
... ..	51,097	17,275	28	.....	... ..	2,17,969	14,400	.....	.....	.....	171	...	2,300	...	351	722	2,275	1,028
... ..	5,43,388	19,006	...	15,491	.....	183	4,175	.....	.....	1,203	11,870	37	8,343	8	51,082	...	477	871
Total of 1897	9,10,080	96,243	1,55,263	1,69,788	24,298	55,80,503	1,044,322	2,24,063	1,06,429	2,22,224	40,091	2,142	46,32,524	1,741	61,782	25,618	23,209	4,244
... 1896	9,43,657	2,73,221	2,22,589	6,04,244	44,606	57,07,880	1,005,277	2,60,963	1,91,453	3,16,504	97,297	1,211	25,59,755	29,543	77,000	90,894	43,261	6,210

IV.

EXPORTS FROM CALCUTTA.

The following Statement shows the Values and Quantities of the Principal Staples of Traffic exported Inland from Calcutta by Rail, Road, River (Country-boat and Steamer), and Canal during the month of October 1897 :—

Whither exported.	Cotton piece-goods.		Cotton twist.		Salt.	Kero- sine oil.	Gunny- bags.	Whither exported.	Cotton piece-goods.		Cotton twist.		Salt.	Kero- sine oil.	Gunny- bags.
	Euro- pean.	Indian.	Euro- pean.	Indian.					Euro- pean.	Indian.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8								
BENGAL.								ORISSA.							
	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Balasore	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.
Burdwan	1,20,187	336	430	1,546	18,516	5,169	67,254	...	53,304	.....	594	4,907	1,830	24,707	72,04
Birbhum	76,653	8,901	108	760	14,808	1,537	9,925	CHOTA NAGPUR.							
Midnapore	2,70,497	680	1,601	.....	15,340	1,302	5,220	Hazaribagh	30,026	604	18	264	5,402	1,400	1,100
Hoochly	1,14,329	3,200	251	40	.....	5,302	32,006	Manbhum	44,972	2,279	66	761	19,297	2,066	1,000
24 Parganas	1,75,000	3,444	680	.....	8,397	1,116	7,235	Singbhum	22,784	.....	18	29	7,421	157	1,000
Nadia	1,89,054	.....	339	1,810	10,072	7,046	27,545	Total of Chota Nagpur							
Murshidabad	51,077	605	172	79	8,005	2,403	9,929	Grand Total of supplies into the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.	62,65,987	20,450	12,820	17,901	5,68,065	3,32,751	7,20,000
Jessore	63,117	.....	771	13	24,507	4,592	8,830	Assam	7,30,648	.....	3,446	89	53,020	26,000	31,000
Khulna	23,119	.....	105	.....	8,309	1,358	1,905	North-Western and Oudh	20,02,433	22,785	2,831	105	31,300	37,400	407,500
Bajshahi	51,290	.....	29	139	15,014	5,336	2,530	Punjab	10,00,000	42,402	580	117	434	20,000	307,100
Dinajpur	65,640	.....	.....	243	10,310	1,247	1,540	Central Provinces	1,46,703	.....	307	6	.....	7,000	30,000
Jalpaiguri	47,920	.....	.....	807	9,852	3,096	6,640	Rajputana and Central India	1,45,656	16,136	88	.....	.....	1,140	13,000
Darjeeling	66,285	.....	78	161	6,575	3,720	5,700	Bombay	5,536	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53,000
Ranikpur	2,02,006	.....	151	305	14,524	5,004	5,270	Madrass	26,253	83	240	53	.....	2,477	3,60,000
Bogra	72,286	.....	.....	124	2,053	5,002	21,246	Mysore	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fabne	1,00,480	.....	321	75	30,433	27,625	.....	Pondicherry	6,817	418	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,100
Cooch Behar	66,104	.....	.....	81	1,411	.....	.....	Burma	1,43,630	1,145	1,029	1,478	.....	800	32,000
Dacca	3,51,636	.....	2,240	40	11,841	44,023	5,250	Other places	18,809	5,850	425	18,871	.....	.....	18,800
Mymensingh	1,78,683	.....	385	.....	0,063	2,400	1,005	Grand Total of Ex-ports in October 1897							
Faridpur	66,660	223	471	709	19,335	21,577	5,075	1896							
Backergunge	81,177	.....	2,223	.....	30,025	5,042	13,205		1,20,00,000	1,15,347	23,050	39,020	6,41,828	4,30,000	22,071,000
Tippura	1,02,409	.....	1,140	.....	6,014	1,000	4,080		1,40,65,417	77,039	20,838	29,075	7,42,797	3,75,681	15,650,000
Nonkhali	48,617	.....	337	.....	3,150	1,100	500								
Chittagong	94,479	.....	360	.....	.....	17	6,000								
Total of Bengal	20,76,078	11,705	12,207	6,505	2,90,310	2,00,901	240,681								
BIHAR.															
Fatna	4,47,036	1,867	399	402	18,035	6,611	77,700								
Gaya	1,00,164	1,027	62	177	9,214	3,612	29,890								
Shahabad	2,35,892	186	23	247	18,163	184	3,150								
Baran	2,08,141	.....	.....	85	10,041	340	10,402								
Champanan	4,04,400	1,023	100	64	20,088	3,430	11,020								
Muzaffarpur	4,00,006	83	.....	25	21,800	5,548	15,650								
Darbhanga	5,02,975	1,028	6	191	34,870	5,791	34,200								
Monghyr	2,38,789	1,030	5	437	18,324	2,763	40,700								
Bankipur	3,70,667	4,404	41	549	31,016	3,638	81,085								
Patna	3,20,080	.....	2	902	22,400	2,711	8,139								
Madia	25,374	.....	187	387	4,790	683	544								
South Parganas	72,148	.....	140	1,059	23,867	2,477	75,290								
Total of Bihar	34,38,923	11,818	915	5,185	2,54,890	30,904	404,700								

V.

The Sea-borne Trade of Calcutta in these Staples during the month of October 1897 was as follows :—

IMPORTED INTO CALCUTTA.	COTTON PIECE-GOODS.		COTTON TWIST.		Salt.	Kerosine oil.	Gunny bags.
	European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
From Foreign Ports—	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.
United Kingdom	86,04,084	.....	15,411	.....	4,17,000	.....	.....
Other Foreign ports	1,21,179	.....	393	.....	2,47,853	3,15,000	.....
Total of Foreign Trade	87,25,263	.....	15,739	.....	6,64,853	3,15,000	.....
From Indian Ports—	4,25,234	2,355	.....	12,424	63,541	.....	.....
Bombay	37,767	.....	.....	.....	15,000	.....	.....
Madras	1,064	.....	.....	.....	3,230	.....	.....
Other ports in Madras	14,179	1,600	.....	.....	.....	7,000	.....
Burma	600	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Indian ports	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Interport Trade	4,78,644	3,955	.....	12,424	1,10,781	7,000	3,673
Grand Total of Im-ports in October 1897	92,03,907	6,355	15,739	12,424	7,75,635	3,23,553	4,179
1896	1,29,07,592	5,17,639	11,691	18,511	4,17,606	2,87,898	20,235

* As per tariff declaration value.

VI.

The following Statement shows the several Routes followed by the Trade in the Principal Staples of Traffic exported from Calcutta during the month of October 1897 :—

Specification of Routes—	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.
	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897
By country boats	1,00,500	3,300	919	.....	1,21,838	55,524	54,300
By river steamers	10,79,687	680	5,138	99	91,720	82,212	52,300
By rail { East Indian Railway	80,80,006	1,00,000	8,369	8,715	8,04,550	1,16,830	1,307,300
Eastern Bengal State Railway	17,45,627	233	8,087	4,307	59,192	1,41,614	79,300
By road	1,00,545	3,344	553	.....	4,235	7,648	8,000
By sea	9,87,327	9,995	3,084	23,399	299	27,063	21,300,000
Grand Total of Exports in October 1897	1,20,80,063	1,15,347	23,550	20,520	6,41,828	4,30,990	22,672,000
1896	1,40,65,417	77,039	26,888	29,575	7,42,797	3,75,681	15,650,000

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,
The 5th April 1898.

D. J. MACPHERSON,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 368 Statist.—The following is published for general information.

D. J. MACPHERSON,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Statement showing the Stocks of Rice in and around Calcutta during April 1898.

STOCK IN HAND AS COMPILED ON—													
NAMES OF MARKS.	1st week of April 1897.	1st week of May 1897.	1st week of June 1897.	1st week of July 1897.	1st week of August 1897.	1st week of Sept. 1897.	2nd week of Oct. 1897.	1st week of Nov. 1897.	1st week of Dec. 1897.	1st week of Jan. 1898.	1st week of Feb. 1898.	1st week of March 1898.	1st week of April 1898.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Bellachia	4,53,000	3,83,000	3,13,500	2,16,500	2,29,500	1,37,000	1,14,300	94,700	84,000	90,300	4,49,200	5,39,500	6,97,000
Uttadanga	36,200	27,300	20,000	31,300	18,700	35,500	12,500	13,600	10,000	16,900	34,200	43,000	53,500
Chitpur, Golabaree, Kumar- gooly, Hathola, and Oulpi Ghat.	1,77,500	1,80,400	1,64,000	2,14,500	1,79,200	1,34,100	1,33,100	1,04,000	1,47,000	1,34,300	1,73,400	3,12,200	2,69,000
Pathuraghatia, Posta, and Jorabagan.	2,000	2,100	1,500	1,800	2,000	1,400	600	1,100	1,450	2,500	2,700	4,900	2,300
Tollymore, Chetla, Kidderpore, and Munshiganj.	1,17,200	20,000	94,800	60,100	77,300	73,700	73,000	46,700	55,600	75,700	88,600	1,19,500	1,40,200
Minor bazars (1)	3,40,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	2,40,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	2,40,000	3,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000
Other retail shops (1)	3,40,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	2,50,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	3,40,000	2,50,000	3,40,000	2,50,000	3,40,000	2,50,000
Bamkristapur	61,100	71,700	73,400	79,175	73,500	42,100	36,900	39,300	43,400	61,500	79,500	1,33,400	1,43,300
Beidyabati, Nawabganj, Bha- drewar, and Chandernagore.	13,000	6,075	6,038	10,500	11,405	4,175	2,856	3,178	1,745	1,840	Figures not available.	3,400	1,397
Total	13,02,900	13,21,675	11,46,305	11,23,955	10,80,535	8,93,625	8,33,688	7,33,925	7,98,495	8,61,040	13,13,300	16,44,920	16,08,407
On Railway premises on both sides of the river.	1,51,533 (on 4th April 1897.)	1,17,048 (on 1st May 1897.)	1,13,092 (on 29th May 1897.)	2,09,883 (on 3rd July 1897.)	75,618 (on 31st July 1897.)	2,51,718 (on 4th Sep- tember 1897.)	7,693 (on 9th Oct. 1897.)	55,748 (on 30th Oct. 1897.)	39,595 (on 4th Dec. 1897.)	15,535 (on 1st Jan. 1898.)	21,833 (on 3rd Feb. 1898.)	12,518 (on 3rd March 1898.)	12,306 (on 3rd April 1898.)
On boats not yet unloaded—													
By Port Commissioners' re- turns.	24,378 (3rd to 5th April 1897.)	29,533 (1st to 3rd May 1897.)	41,068 (30th to 31st May 1897.)	26,497 (3rd to 5th July 1897.)	24,638 (31st July to 2nd Aug. 1897.)	24,593 (4th to 5th Sept. 1897.)	40,372 (9th to 11th Oct. 1897.)	25,993 (30th Oct. to 1st Nov. 1897.)	39,679 (4th to 8th Dec. 1897.)	56,501 (1st to 3rd Jan. 1898.)	44,514 (1st to 3rd Feb. 1898.)	40,070 (1st to 3rd March 1898.)	39,054 (1st to 3rd April 1898.)
By Canal returns	15,917 (3rd to 5th April 1897.)	11,023 (1st to 3rd May 1897.)	14,809 (29th to 31st May 1897.)	8,242 (3rd to 5th July 1897.)	4,499 (31st July to 2nd Aug. 1897.)	13,085 (4th to 5th Sept. 1897.)	9,726 (9th to 11th Oct. 1897.)	7,125 (30th Oct. to 1st Nov. 1897.)	15,753 (4th to 8th Dec. 1897.)	37,991 (1st to 3rd Jan. 1898.)	1,26,581 (1st to 3rd Feb. 1898.)	84,894 (1st to 3rd March 1898.)	59,947 (1st to 3rd April 1898.)
Grand total of Stocks	15,54,778	13,78,904	13,19,937	13,78,297	11,97,570	11,51,622	9,10,417	9,91,092	9,93,321	10,90,947	15,07,237	17,92,011	18,94,904

* This mart is in the Howrah district, and the figures have been obtained by local enquiry.

+ Figures furnished by the Collector of Hooghly.

1 Ditto by the Railway authorities.

(1) Estimated as a constant quantity.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,
The 5th April 1898.

D. J. MACPHERSON,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Bengal.

Number.		DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE																	
			WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR CHUANG (Sorghum Vulgaris)					
			Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.			
BENGAL.																				
BARDWAN DIVISION.	1	Burdwan	...	...	...	9 8	...	...	...	11 4	11 4	8 4	13 5	13 2	9 12	...	...	...	...	...
	2	Birbhum	...	12 0	10 0	7 8	...	...	...	10 0	9 0	7 8	13 8	13 8	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	3	Bankura	...	13 0	12 8	9 0	...	...	...	11 8	10 0	10 0	15 5	15 0	11 0	...	...	...	...	...
	4	Midnapore	...	8 8	10 0	8 0	...	...	...	{ 11 0 to 11 8 }	11 0	8 8	{ 13 12 to 14 0 }	13 12	11 0	...	...	...	...	...
	5	Hooghly	...	10 0	10 0	10 0	...	...	...	7 8	7 8	7 8	11 0	11 0	9 8	...	...	...	...	...
	6	Howrah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 12	9 8	{ 8 0 to 8 8 }	12 6	12 8	10 0	...	...	...	...	...
PRESDENT DIVISION.	7	24-Parganas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	{ 5 12 to 8 0 }	{ 7 8 }	{ 11 8 to 13 0 }	{ 11 8 to 13 0 }	10 0	...	...	...	...	...
	8	Calcutta	...	10 0	10 10	8 0	13 5	12 4	11 13	6 10	6 10	6 6	8 6	8 0	8 0	14 8	12 4	...	...	...
	9	Nadia	...	12 13	13 5	9 2	...	...	...	5 15	5 15	6 13	13 12	12 7	9 10	...	...	...	...	...
	10	Murshidabad	...	13 8	13 4	10 0	20 0	...	...	10 0	10 0	8 8	14 0	13 8	9 8	...	...	...	...	...
	11	Jessore	...	10 0	8 0	7 8	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	8 0	13 0	13 0	9 4	...	...	...	...	...
	12	Khulna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 14	12 0	9 0	13 0	14 4	10 8	...	...	...	...	...
RAJSHAH DIVISION.	13	Rajshahi	...	15 0	14 4	9 4	22 8	22 8	14 4	6 0	6 0	7 8	13 2	13 8	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	14	Dinajpur	...	8-14-12	8-14-12	8 0	...	...	...	10 3	10 3	7-12-4	14-5-22	14-5-22	9-9-3	...	...	...	...	...
	15	Jalpaiguri	...	8 4	8 4	8 0	...	...	...	5 4	5 4	7 0	12 0	12 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	16	Darjeeling	...	7 0	8 0	6 0	8 0	7 0	8 0	5 8	5 8	5 8	11 0	11 0	8 8	...	...	...	...	...
	17	Rangpur	...	7 0	7 0	8 0	...	...	...	8 8	8 0	6 0	12 8	12 0	8 0	...	...	...	...	...
	18	Bogra	...	{ 7 8 now 12 0 }	7 2	7 8	...	...	...	9 0	9 0	7 8	12 0	12 0	9 6	...	...	...	...	...
DACCA DIVISION.	19	Pabna	...	15 0	12 0	9 12	20 0	12 0	16 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	12 0	12 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	20	Dacca	...	8 0	8 0	8 8	26 0	26 0	...	10 0	10 8	8 8	11 12	12 0	9 8	...	...	...	...	...
	21	Mymensingh	...	8 0	8 0	7 0	...	...	...	7 8	7 8	6 0	10 0	10 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	22	Faridpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 8	5 7	5 4	11 12	11 12	8 2	...	...	...	...	...
	23	Backergunge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 12	11 8	7 14	12 0	12 0	8 10	...	...	...	...	...

- A. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kalna 10 seers (panga) and 11 seers (karkatch); Katwa 10 seers 15 chitaks (karkatch); Raniganj 10½ seers.
- B. At Rampur Hat the retail price of salt is 11½ seers per rupee.
- C. At Vishnupur the retail price of salt is 9½ seers per rupee.
- D. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Contai 9 seers (panga); Tamluk 10 seers; Ghatal 10½ seers.
- E. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Serampore 10½ seers and Jahanabad 10 seers (panga).
- F. At Ulubaria the retail price of salt is 10 seers 10½ chitaks per rupee.
- G. In the marts in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Chetla 10½ seers; Barasat 10 seers; Bad return not received; Magrahat 9 seers 2 chitaks.
- H. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kushtia (Bahadurkhal) 10½ seers (panga); Chuadanga 10 seers (panga); Moherpur 10 seers (karkatch); Ranaghat 10 seers (crushed).
- I. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Lalbagh 11 seers (karkatch); Jangipur 10½ seers; Kandi 10½ seers.
- J. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Jhunida 9 seers 1 chitak; Magura 9½ seers; Narail 8 seers 11 chitaks; Bengoon 9 seers 2 chitaks.

SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

BAPRA OR CUMBU. (<i>Pennisetum typhoid-</i> <i>eum.</i>)			MARUA OR RADL (<i>Eleusine Corocana</i>)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.

R. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch.

...
...
...
...
...
...

...
5	12	4	8	0	...
...
...
...
...

...
...
...
...	...	14	8	14	0
...
...

...
...
...
...
...

KANGNI OR KAKUM, ITALIAN MILLET. (<i>Setaria Italica</i> .)			GRAM, CHANA, ORHOLA, KADALAY, OR SUNAGA. (<i>Cicer arretinum</i> .)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.

S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
...	12	8	12	8	12	8
...	16	0	16	0	11	4
...	18	8	12	8	10	0
...	10	8	10	0	11	0
...	12	0	8	0	8	0
...	9	0	9	0	10	0

...	...	...	...	12	0	10	4	9	0
10	10	10	10	8	0	11	7	10	10
...	...	...	...	16	0	17	12	12	13
...	...	...	...	17	0	16	0	14	0
...	...	...	...	18	4	8	0	10	0
...	...	...	...	7	8	7	0	9	0

000	000	000	18 0 0 0 18 8
000	000	000	9 12 9 10 0
000	000	000	9 4 9 4 10 0
000	000	000	8 0 7 0 7 0
000	000	000	10 0 7 12 10 0
000	000	000	12 0 7 2 15 0
000	000	000	15 0 9 4 13 8

...	...	...	...	10	4	10	4	10	0
...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0	8	0
...	...	...	...	5	8	5	8	16	0
...	...	...	...	7	8	7	8	9	4

Quarters Station Bazars of the Districts of Bengal on the 31st March 1898.

												WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 SEERS.																
INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE. (See m. s.)						ARHAR OR TURB. CADJAN PRA. (Cajanus Indicus.)						SALT.						SALT.						DISTRICTS.	Number.			
Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.			Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.			Present return.			Next preceding return.					Corresponding return of last year.		
Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.			Ch.	S.	
...	17	0	16	0	13	8	11	4	11	4	11	4	13	6	6	3	6	0	3	6	0	Burdwan.	1		
...	15	0	15	0	12	0	10	8	10	8	11	4	13	10	6	3	10	6	3	8	0	Birbhum.	2		
...	12	0	11	0	10	0	10	7	10	7	10	8	13	13	0	3	13	0	3	13	0	Bankura.	3		
...	16	0	16	0	13	0	10	8	10	0	10	0	13	9	0	3	9	0	3	14	0	Midnapore.	4		
...	6	8	6	8	8	0	11	0	11	0	10	8	13	7	0	3	7	0	3	11	0	Hooghly.	5		
...	11	0	11	0	9	6	10	0	10	0	9	0	13	12	0	3	12	0	3	14	0	Howrah.	6		
...	12	0	6	8	9	0	10	8	10	8	10	0	13	7	0	3	7	0	3	12	0	24-Parganas	7		
14	8	12	4	10	0	10	10	10	10	12	4	10	0	10	0	10	0	13	7	0	3	7	0	3	9	0	Calcutta.	8
...	20	0	20	0	14	9	11	8	11	8	10	8	13	9	0	3	9	0	3	13	0	Nadia.	9		
...	22	0	20	0	14	10	11	0	11	0	11	0	13	8	0	3	8	0	3	8	0	Murshidabad.	10		
...	18	0	16	0	13	4	10	8	9	4	9	0	13	12	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	Jessore.	11		
...	7	8	7	0	9	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	13	4	8	0	4	8	0	4	8	0	Khulna.	13	
...	22	8	20	8	15	12	9	12	9	12	9	0	13	13	4	3	13	4	4	2	8	Rajshahi.	13		
...	19-3-12	19-3-12	...	...	10	0	10	0	10	0	9-6-34	13	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	4	0	Dinajpur.	14		
...	7	8	7	8	8	8	9	12	9	12	9	0	13	12	0	3	12	0	4	1	0	Jalpaiguri.	15		
17	0	18	0	18	0	6	0	5	8	6	8	8	0	8	0	13	0	1	7	0	1	...	...	...	Darjeeling.	16
16	0	16	0	10	0	7	0	6	0	6	8	8	0	8	0	13	0	10	1	4	8	0	4	8	0	Rangpur.	17	
...	9	0	13	13	13	12	1	4	2	3	4	0	0	4	4	0	Bogra.	18	
...	20	0	20	0	16	8	9	13	9	13	9	11	13	13	0	3	13	0	4	2	0	Pabna.	19		
...	10	8	10	8	9	8	10	0	10	0	10	0	13	11	0	3	12	0	4	0	0	Dacca.	20		
...	5	8	5	8	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	13	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	Mymensingh.	21	
...	9	13	9	13	8	12	1	4	0	4	4	0	4	10	0	Faridpur.	22		
...	10	0	10	0	9	8	13	12	0	3	12	0	4	4	0	Backergunge.	23		

BENGAL.

BURDWAN DIVISION.

PARAGANAH DIVISION.

RAJSHAH DIVISION.

DACCA DIVISION.

- K. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Bagerhat 10 seers ; Satkhira 9½ seers.
 L. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Nator 9 seers ; Nowgong 9½ seers.
 M. In Alipur Duars the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
 N. At Kurseong and Siliguri the retail price of salt (panga) is 8 seers per rupee.
 O. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Kurigram return not received ; Gaibanda 10 seers ; Nilphamari 9 seers.
 P. At Sirajganj the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
 Q. In the marts in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Madanganj 10 seers 10 chitaks, Manikganj 9 seers, Munshirhat 9 seers 2 chitaks, Mirkadim 9 seers 2 chitaks.
 R. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Kishorganj 9 seers 6 chitaks, Jamalpur 9 seers 7 chitaks, Karghari 8 seers, Netrokona 8 seers.
 S. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Goalundo 10 seers (panga), Madaripur 10½ seers (crushed)
 T. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Pirojpur 8 seers, Fatuakhali 9 seers, Bhola 8 seers.

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Head-quarter.

		QUANTITIES PER RUPEE IN																	
		WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR GHOLUN (Sorghum Vulgar.)					
Number.	DISTRICTS.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.			
		S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.		
BENGAL—concluded.																			
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.	24 Tippera	...	...	7 4	...	...	...	10 12	10 10	8 0	12 0	12 4	8 8	...	...	...
	25 Nonkhali	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	8 0	11 8	11 0	9 0	...	...	...
	26 Chittagong	...	...	6 8	...	...	...	10 10	10 10	8 0	11 12	11 12	10 0	...	...	...
BIHAR.																			
PATNA DIVISION.	27 Patna *	...	12 8	10 8	...	17 0	14 0	...	13 8	9 0	...	16 0	10 0	...	20 0	...			
	28 Gaya	13 0	13 4	9 12	21 0	21 0	13 0	7 0	7 8	6 8	14 0	14 0	8 8	18 0	19 0	10 0			
	29 Shahabad	{ 10 8 & 11 0	{ 9 12 & 11 0	{ 9 8 & 10 0	18 0	17 0	12 0	{ 12 4 & 12 8	{ 12 8 & 12 9	{ 8 8 & 9 0	{ 13 8 & 14 0	{ 13 8 & 14 0	{ 9 8 & 9 8	...	...	...
	30 Saran	18 0	18 0	10 8	21 0	20 0	12 14	8 0	7 0	7 0	13 8	13 4	9 12	...	...	...
	31 Champaran	11 0	11 0	8 0	...	...	14 0	6 8	7 0	6 0	14 0	15 0	8 12	...	...	...
	32 Muzaffarpur	13 0	11 0	9 8	20 0	16 0	12 0	6 0	6 0	6 8	13 0	14 0	9 0	...	...	...
	33 Darbhanga	11 0	9 0	8 8	18 8	14 8	11 0	6 0	6 8	7 8	11 0	12 8	8 8	...	...	...
BHAGALPUR DIVISION.	34 Monghyr	15 6	14 2	9 10	21 0	15 12	13 15	6 4	6 0	6 0	12 12	12 12	7 15	...	...	...
	35 Bhagalpur *	...	10 12	8 14	...	14 0	12 10	...	12 0	7 10	...	14 8	8 14	...	...	...
	36 Purnea (Kasba)	{ Old 8 8 Now 10 8 12 8	8 8	9 4	...	...	7 0	13 0	13 0	8 0	16 8	16 0	8 8	...	...	...
	37 Malda (English Bazar).	...	...	11 0	...	...	...	8 0	7 8	8 4	14 0	18 8	8 12	...	...	...
	38 Sonbhat Parganas.	8 8	10 0	7 8	14 0	10 0	...	10 0	10 8	8 0	13 0	13 4	9 10	...	...	...
ORISSA.																			
ORISSA DIVISION.	39 Cuttack	8 9	8 9	8 8	...	...	...	10 8	10 8	8 9	15 12	15 12	12 9	...	...	...
	40 Balasore	16 0	16 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	13 8	13 8	10 8	16 0	16 0	12 12	...	...	...
	41 Puri	7 14	7 5	6 9	...	...	...	10 8	10 8	7 14	17 2	17 2	13 2	...	...	...
CHOTA NAGPUR.																			
CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.	42 Hazaribagh	New 10 12	9 0	8 4	13 4	13 4	10 9	6 0	6 0	7 0	12 4	12 8	8 12	...	...	...
	43 Lohardaga	{ 6 0 to 10 8	{ 6 0 to 8 8	{ 5 8 to 8 8	...	...	...	{ 9 0 to 10 0	{ 10 0 to 10 0	{ 7 0 to 10 0	{ 12 0 to 12 8	{ 12 8 to 8 4	{ 8 0 to 8 4	...	...	...
	44 Palamau	14 1	9 9	9 13	23 10	20 2	15 3	11 8	11 12	7 12	13 0	12 15	8 2	...	...	...
	45 Manbhum	12 0	9 0	8 8	18 0	16 0	16 0	10 0	9 0	9 8	16 0	15 0	10 0	...	...	...
	46 Singhbhum	8 0	8 0	8 0	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	9 0	16 0	16 0	11 0	...	...	...

* Return not received.

- U. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Chandpur 9 seers ; Brahmanbaria 9 seers 2 chittacks.
V. At Feni the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
W. At Cox's Bazar the retail price of salt is 8½ seers per rupee.
W1. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Nawada 9 seers, Aurangabad 9½ seers.
W2. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Buxar 11 seers, Bhabua 9½ seers, Sasaram 10½ seers.
X. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Siwan 11½ seers, Gopalganj (Mirganj) 12 seers 2 chittacks.
Y. At Bettiah the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
Z. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Hajipur 9½ seers and Sitamarhi 10 seers.
a. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Samastipur 10 seers, Madhubani 10½ seers.

CALCUTTA,
The 5th April 1898.

KANONI OR KAKUN ITALIAN MILLET. (<i>Setaria italica</i> .)	GRAM, CHANA, CHHOLA, KADALAY OR SUNAGA. (<i>Cicer arstinum</i> .)
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Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.
-----------------	-----------------------------	--	-----------------	-----------------------------	--

S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.
...	...	...	...	...	8 0
...	...	...	7 8	7 8	8 0
...	...	...	8 0	8 0	8 0

	12 0	14 0		16 0	18 0
10 0	10 0	11 0	18 0	16 0	11 8
...	...	...	{ 18 8 17 0 }	16 8	{ 11 0 12 12 }
10 0	10 0	10 0	17 0	16 0	12 0
...	...	...	11 0	10 8	11 0
...	...	...	15 0	10 0	11 0
...	...	...	14 0	10 8	10 8

10 8	11 8	...	16 12	16 12	12 15
...	...	...	...	14 0	12 0
...	...	...	10 0	18 0	8 0
...	0	...	...	8 0	15 0
...	...	...	18 0	18 4	10 0

...	...	...	Biri or kalai. 16 2 14 7 13 8 Chhola.
...	...	...	{ 10 0 10 0 10 0 Biri or kalai 12 0 12 0 11 13 11 4 12 2

...	...	...	Id. 9 0 } 10 0 10 12 New. 14 0 8 0 } 8 8 to } 9 8 11 0 } 10 0 18 9 } 16 14 } 11 13
...	...	...	12 0 11 0 10 0
...	...	...	9 0 9 0 8 0

SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

BAJRA OR CUMBU. (<i>Pennisetum typhoides</i> L. var. <i>compressum</i> .)			MARUA OR BAJA. (<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i> L.)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.

S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.
...
...
...

...
...
...
...
...
...	...	...	22 0	18 8	...
...	...	...	21 0	20 0	12 0

...
...
...
21 0	21 0	...	...	...	...
...

...
...
...

...	...	...	17	18 0	11 0
...	...	...	20 0	21 0	13 0
...	...	...	18 0	18 0	...
16 0	16 0	11 0	...	...	...
...

PRICES-CURRENT (wholesale) of Food-grains, Firewood, &c.

Number.	MARKS.	RICE (BEST SORT).			COMMON RICE (mota chaul).			WHEAT (<i>Triticum sativum</i>).			BARLEY (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>).		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Calcutta	5 12 0	5 12 0	6 0 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	3 12 0	3 10 0	4 8 0	2 8 0	2 8 0	3 4 0
2	Burdwan	3 6 0	3 6 0	4 12 0	2 15 0	2 15 0	4 8 0	...	...	4 2 0	...	...	...
3	Midnapore	3 8 0	3 8 0	4 4 0	2 10 0	2 10 0	3 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Pabna	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	3 5 3	3 5 3	4 6 0	2 10 0	3 5 3	4 1 0	...	...	...
5	Rangpur	4 12 0	5 0 0	6 0 0	3 1 0	3 2 0	4 7 2	5 0 0	5 0 0	4 8 0	...	...	...
6	Dacca	3 14 0	3 11 0	4 12 0	3 4 0	3 3 0	4 3 0	4 12 0	4 14 0	4 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	...
7	Chittagong	3 12 0	3 12 0	6 0 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	4 0 0	...	...	6 0 0	...	...	...
8	Patna*	...	2 14 0	4 6 0	...	2 7 0	3 14 0	...	3 1 3	3 10 0	...	2 3 6	2 13 0
9	Mumfarrpur	6 10 6	6 10 6	6 2 6	3 1 3	2 13 8	4 7 0	3 1 3	3 10 0	4 8 6	2 0 0	2 8 0	3 3 0
10	Bhagalpur*	...	3 4 0	5 4 0	...	2 10 6	4 8 0	...	3 10 0	4 8 0	...	2 12 0	3 3 0
11	Cuttack	3 6 6	3 6 6	4 5 6	2 5 6	2 5 6	3 1 0	4 8 6	4 8 6	4 11 0	...	...	...
12	Ranchi	{ 4 0 0 to 4 7 0 }	4 6 6	5 12 0	3 5 0	3 3 0	{ 4 15 0 to 5 0 0 }	3 12 0 to 6 10 6	4 0 0 to 6 10 6	4 11 0 to 7 4 0 }	...	...	...

* Return not received.

CALCUTTA,
The 5th April 1898.

JWAR OR CHOLU (<i>Sorghum vulgare</i>).			BAJRA OR CUMBU (<i>Pennisetum typhoides</i>).			MARUA OR RAGI (<i>Eleusine coracana</i>).			GRAM, CHANA, CHOLA, KADALAY, OR SUNAGA (<i>Cicer arietinum</i>).		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.	R. A. P.
3 0	2 2 0	3 4 0	2 6 0	2 4 0	4 8 0	...	...	...	3 0 0	3 8 0	3 4 0
...	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 4 0
...
...	2 10 0	4 4 0	2 15 0
...	3 8 0	4 12 0	4 0 0
...	3 12 0	3 12 0	4 0 0
...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
...	1 14 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 6 6	3 0 0
...	1 18 0	2 2 6	...	...	4 0 0	3 10 0
...	2 12 0	3 5 3
...	Biri or kalal.	2 10 6	2 13 9
...	2 8 6	2 10 6	2 13 9
...	3 10 0	4 0 0	4 3 6
...	5 0 0	4 11 0	4 3 6

PRICES PER MAUND

INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE (Zea mays).			ARHAR DAL OR THUR— CADJAN PEA (Cajanus indicus).			LINSKED.			MUSTARD AND RAPESEED.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2 2 0	2 5 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 4 0	4 0 0	3 12 0	4 4 0
...	...	...	3 4 0	3 9 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	4 0 0	4 8 0	4 9 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 10 0	4 0 0	4 6 0	4 0 0	4 10 0
...	...	...	2 0 0	2 0 0	4 0 0	3 6 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	5 0 0	...	5 2 0
2 0 0	2 8 0	4 0 0	5 8 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	11 0 0	3 5 0	3 5 0	5 3 0
...	...	...	3 8 0	3 8 0	4 2 0	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 6 0	3 14 0
...
...	1 12 0	...	...	2 3 0	2 10 0	...	3 4 0	3 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 3 0
2 0 0	2 0 0	3 18 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	4 11 3	...	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 12 0
...	1 12 6	3 9 0	...	2 3 0	3 3 0	...	3 8 0	3 12 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	2 5 6	2 5 6	2 10 6	...	...	...	...	4 0 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	6 0 0	4 11 0 to 5 5 6	5 2 0	4 7 0	4 7 0	4 7 0	4 3 6	4 3 6	3 12 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 1 0 to 3 5 0	3 1 0 to 3 6 0	4 7 0 to 5 8 0

STANDARD BEERS.

TIL OR JINJILI SEED.			SUGAR (RAW).			COTTON, CLEANED.			JUTE.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.	Ra. A. P.
0 0	3 14 0	4 8 0	4 10 0	4 9 0	5 0 0	16 8 0	16 0 0	17 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	5 0 0
"	"	"	5 0 0	4 10 0	4 6 0	18 0 0	17 0 0	16 8 0	"	"	"
"	"	"	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 4 0	18 0 0	17 0 0	20 0 0	"	"	"
"	"	"	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 12 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	2 11 0	2 11 0	4 15 0
"	"	"	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 0 0	"	"	"	3 0 0	3 0 0	4 0 0
"	"	"	6 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	"	"	"	3 0 0	3 8 0	3 12 0
"	"	"	5 8 0	5 4 0	4 6 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	18 8 0	"	"	"
"	3 9 0	3 14 0	"	3 0 0	3 0 0	"	15 0 0	15 0 0	"	2 12 0	2 12 0
"	"	"	4 0 0	3 5 6	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"	3 12 0	"	"	15 0 0	17 0 0	"	"	"
0 6	3 10 6	4 8 0	5 12 0	5 12 0	4 14 0	24 8 0	24 8 0	20 8 0	"	"	"
"	"	"	5 0 0	4 11 0	{ 4 7 0 to 5 0 0 }	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	"	"	{

GHI (CLARIFIED BUTTER).			TOBACCO LEAF.			HIDES (COW).			GRAM.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
34 0 0	33 0 0	30 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	250-0-0 per 100 pieces.	240-0-0 per 100 pieces.	240-0-0 per 100 pieces.	7 0 0	7 0 0	6 0 0
30 0 0	30 0 0	26 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No import	35 0 0	32 0 0	Madbukhali. Pulta.	5 0 0	5 8 0	Uncleaned hides, per piece— 0 8 0 to 2 0 0	0 8 0 to 2 0 0	0 12 0 to 2 2 0	...	...	...
40 0 0	40 0 0	23 0 0	6 4 0	6 4 0	6 8 0	Cleaned hides, per piece— 0 12 0 to 2 4 0	0 12 0 to 2 4 0	1 0 0 to 2 6 0	...	...	...
32 0 0	31 0 0	30 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	7	7	...
35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	6 8 0	6 8 0	7 8 0	25 0 0 per maund.	25 0 0 per maund.	27 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 0 0
40 0 0	40 0 0	35 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	12 0 0	20 0 0 per maund.	20 0 0 per maund.	18 0 0	...	...	...
...	24 0 0	22 0 0	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	...	0 5 0	0 0 0
27 18 3	27 18 3	22 18 9	10 0 0	10 0 0	11 7 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	32 0 0	25 6 0	...	4 8 0	7 8 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 8 0	34 8 0	30 8 0	5 8 0	6 0 0	4 0 0	25 0 0 per maund.	25 0 0 per maund.	22 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	30 0 0
30 7 0	26 10 0	26 10 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
37 10 8	32 0 0	32 0 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	13 0 0	1 4 0 per piece.	1 4 0 per piece.	2 0 0	0 3 4	0 3 4	0 0 0

undermentioned Ports of Bengal on the 31st March 1898.

STRAW.	JUAR STALKS.	PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 STANDARD SEERS.												MARKS.
Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
5 4 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	6 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 9 0	1. Calcutta.
4 8 0	6 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	2. Burdwan.
1 8 0	2 0 0	...	...	...	4 8 0	4 4 0	4 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 9 0	3 9 0	3 14 0	3. Midnapore.
1 0 0	0 12 0	...	...	...	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 11 0	
7	8	...	...	...	6 8 0	6 8 0	6 0 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 6 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 0 0	4. Pabna.
...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 8 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	3 11 0	3 12 0	4 0 0	5. Rangpur.
...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	0 8 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	4 8 0	6. Dacca.
0 5 0	0 7 0	...	...	...	...	3 0 0	2 0 0	...	0 5 0	0 5 0	...	3 10 0	3 10 0	7. Chittagong.
...	...	...	...	...	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	8. Patna.
...	...	...	...	...	...	5 4 0	5 4 0	...	0 5 2	0 3 0	...	3 12 0	3 14 0	9. Munaffarpur.
2 10 0	2 12 0	...	...	...	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 1 0	3 1 0	3 0 0	10. Bhagalpur.
fixed rate.	...	...	...	...	5 11 0	5 11 0	5 8 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	4 2 0	4 2 0	4 7 0	11. Cuttack.
														12. Ranchi.

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal

Abstract of the Results of Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory in the month of March 1898.

	Inches.	Date.	Hour.
The mean pressure of the month	29.837		
The average pressure of March from 24 years' registers	29.869		
The highest pressure in the month	30.066	5th	10
The lowest pressure in the month	29.653	19th	16
The range of pressure	0.413		
Hours.			
The total number of hours of bright sunshine during the month	282.4		
The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine	371.3		
°			
The mean temperature of the month	78.4		
The average temperature of March from 24 years' registers	80.6		
The highest temperature in the month	100.1	19th	
The lowest temperature in the month	50.2	5th	
The range of temperature during the month	49.9		
The mean daily range of temperature	27.0		
The greatest range of temperature in one day	32.4	9th	
Per cent.			
The mean humidity of the month	59		
The average humidity of March from 24 years' registers	66		
Inches.			
The mean vapour tension of the month	0.550		
The average vapour tension of March from 9 years' registers	0.702		
The mean cloud proportion of the month	0.35		
The average cloud proportion of March from 21 years' registers	2.37		
Inches.			
The total rainfall of the month	nil.		
The total rainfall indicated by a Beckley's self-registering rain-gauge (mouth of the gauge about 52 feet above the ground)	nil.		
The average fall of March from 48 years' registers	1.34		
The greatest fall in 24 hours	nil.		
Days.			
The number of rainy days in the month	nil.		
The average number of rainy days in March from 24 years' registers	4		
°			
The mean maximum equilibrium temperature of solar radiation during the month	146.0		
The mean difference of sun and air temperatures	53.1		
The greatest sun temperature	154.4	31st	
The greatest excess of sun over air temperature	58.4	4th	
The mean temperature of the nocturnal radiation thermometer on woollen cloth	59.4		
The mean depression of the nocturnal radiation thermometer below the minimum air temperature at 4 feet above the ground	6.9		
The greatest depression of the nocturnal radiation thermometer below the minimum air temperature	9.9	7th	
Miles.			
The mean movement of the wind per day	78.8		
The greatest movement of the wind in one day	150.0	25th	
The greatest movement of the wind in one hour	13.0	25th, 10 to 11 a.m. & 3 to 4 p.m.	

The number of hours with winds from each of the 8 points—

N. 48, N.E. 14, E. 8, S.E. 6, S. 80, S.W. 275, W. 91, N.W. 84, Calm 138.

The results of observations at the Alipore Observatory are not rigorously comparable with the registers of past years (at the Park Street Observatory). The barometer is about 3 feet higher at Alipore, and, other things being equal, reads therefore .003 lower. The diurnal range of temperature is also greater at Alipore, and the mean temperature apparently about 1.0° lower; and, finally, the thermometer which furnished the record of temperature at the Surveyor-General's Office during 20 years and upwards is found to read 0.6 higher than the Kew standard thermometer, which is the standard of reference at the present Observatory.

J. H. GILLILAND,

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, GOVT. OF INDIA,
Calcutta, the 4th April 1898.

For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of India.

Abstract of the Results of the Barometric and Thermometric Observations taken at 10 a.m. at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, in the month of March 1898.

The mean pressure at 10 A.M. during the month	...	Inches.	Date.
	...	29.909	
The mean temperature at 10 A.M. during the month	...	83.6	
The highest temperature during the month	...	101.5	31st.
The lowest temperature during the month	...	51.9	5th.
The absolute range of temperature during the month	...	49.6	
The mean daily range of temperature during the month	...	27.8	
The greatest range of temperature in one day during the month	...	33.7	24th.
The mean 10 A.M. humidity during the month	...	%	
	...	50	
The mean 10 A.M. vapour tension during the month	...	Inch.	
	...	.586	
The total rainfall of the month	...	Nil.	
The greatest fall in 24 hours	...	Nil.	
The number of rainy days in the month	...	Nil.	

C. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 4th April 1898.

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 27th March to 2nd April 1898.

MONTH.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.						HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.	Humidity at 10 A.M.	
1898.		Inches.	°	°		°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
March	27th	29.843	85.8	100.2	28.9	71.3	87.6	78.0	.831	73.7	64	Nil.
"	28th	.792	85.9	99.4	27.1	72.3	86.1	78.0	.851	74.4	68	"
"	29th	.816	86.5	100.4	27.9	72.5	90.6	79.0	.836	73.8	58	"
"	30th	.874	87.6	100.4	25.6	74.8	87.5	81.5	.996	79.1	76	"
"	31st	.838	88.4	101.5	26.2	75.3	88.5	83.1	1.001	81.1	78	"
April	1st	.788	87.9	101.0	26.3	74.8	91.4	75.7	.681	67.8	45	"
"	2nd	.796	87.6	99.2	23.2	76.0	90.1	80.0	.890	75.7	63	"

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days ... Inches. 29.821

The mean temperature of the seven days ... 87.1

The extreme variation of temperature ... 30.2

The maximum temperature ... 101.5

The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days ... % 65

The total fall of rain from 27th March to 2nd April 1898 ... Inches. Nil.

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 4th April 1898.

C. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

**Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from
27th March to 2nd April 1898.**

Month.	Date.	Maximum in sun.	Number of hours of bright sunshine.	Mean pressure barometer at 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.				HYGROMETRY.				WIND.		Rain.	WEATHER.
					Mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Mean wet bulb.	Vapour tension.	Dew point.	Humidity.	Prevailing direction.	Miles recorded.		
1898.				Inches.	°	°	°	°	"	Inches.	°	%			Inches.	
March	27th	152.3	8.9	29.779	81.8	97.7	27.0	70.7	74.1	0.740	70.2	68	SSW and SW	131	Nil	Clear.
"	28th	146.8	8.4	.787	83.6	98.2	25.8	72.9	74.4	.728	69.7	63	SSW and WSW	108	"	Chiefly clear, a
"	29th	150.6	8.9	.762	83.3	97.4	26.0	71.4	75.1	.762	71.1	66	SSW, SW, and variable.	150	"	Day partially cloudy, night clear, t, <
"	30th	150.0	9.5	.791	84.5	98.4	23.4	75.0	75.3	.754	70.8	63	SSW and variable.	108	"	Partially cloudy.
"	31st	154.4	9.8	.771	84.7	99.0	21.8	74.2	74.4	.714	69.2	59	SW, SSW, and WSW.	96	"	Partially cloudy, o.
April	1st	152.7	9.7	.781	85.6	99.4	25.4	74.0	74.1	.690	68.2	56	SSW	169	"	Day clear, night partially cloudy.
"	2nd	150.5	8.9	.740	85.4	97.0	21.6	75.4	76.2	.781	71.1	64	SSW and S	176	"	Clear.

The mean pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.759

The average pressure of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 29.783

The total number of hours of bright sunshine Hours. 64.1

The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine 86.0

The mean temperature of the seven days 84.1

The average temperature of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 83.7

The extreme variation of temperature 28.7

The maximum temperature 99.4

The highest velocity of the wind in one hour Miles. 11

The mean relative humidity % 63

The average relative humidity of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 66

The total fall of rain from 27th March to 2nd April 1898 Inches. Nil

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 0.12

The total fall from 1st January to 2nd April 1898 0.36

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 2.81

The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph, and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are obtained from self-registering thermometers. All the thermometers are verified and the readings have been corrected to a standard constructed and verified at the Kew Observatory. They are exposed under a thatched shed open at the sides, and are suspended four feet above the ground.

The barometer readings are corrected approximately to those of the standard, Newman's No. 86, formerly at the Surveyor-General's Office.

The hygrometric elements are obtained from Tables III, IV, and V of the official tables computed in the Meteorological Office, and based on Regnault's modifications of August's formula.

The directions and the movement of the wind are taken from the trace of a Beckley's anemograph.

The mouth of the rain-gauge is one foot above the ground.

a, dew ; t, thunder, <, lightning ; o, overcast.

IRRIGATION OPERATIONS FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1897-98.
Areas leased for Irrigation up to end of February 1898.

ORGAN.	District.	Canal.	Estimated full discharge.	Average discharge in month.	Discharge utilized.	Approximate area of land irrigated during the year up to the end of the month.	Approximate area of land under irrigation up to the same date last year.	DETAILS OF AREAS LEASED.										Rainfall, 1897-98.		REMARKS.
								Season leases.							GRAND TOTAL.			During month.	Up to end of month.	
								Long-term leases.	Khair.	Babi.	Sugarcane.	Barid.	Hot-weather.	Total.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.				Inches.	Inches.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
ORISSA	Cuttack	Taldanda, 1st reach	1,342	148	...	17,443	16,563	17,553	150	6	159	17,700	...	68 00	1 90	53 08	21
		Ditto, 2nd "	868	49	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	10	10	...	...	3 35	53 35
		Machgon	776	59	97	32,648	31,087	32,503	49	17	19	...	...	85	32,648	...	50 19	5 25	57 33
		Kendrapara	1,067	218	130	62,572	54,040	62,572	30	351	...	...	...	331	52,953	...	43 38	2 00	56 72
		Gobri	373	44	14	3,950	4,704	3,908	7	88	...	...	...	95	4,003	...	61 15	4 05	49 26
		Do. Extension	643	27	19	2,498	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	3,749	...	60 08	5 03	55 14
		Patamundi	885	76	49	14,424	10,417	14,950	188	133	...	...	...	311	15,249	...	59 34	4 78	60 79
		High Level, Range I	608	49	8	22,401	24,724	22,377	...	67	15	...	...	82	22,468	...	51 14	1 34	40 13
		Ditto, do. II	727 16	6 35	8 35	3,272	3,193	3,298	...	274	...	...	...	274	3,272	...	46 15	2 50	51 32
		Jaspur Canal	700	123	108	11,225	12,605	9,889	103	1,723	40	...	...	1,824	11,759	...	No gauge	60 79	58 37
SOUTH-WESTERN RAIL.	Balasore	High Level, Range III	727 16	26 44	56 44	29,130	31,457	28,764	...	83	414	433	29,217	...	40 33	2 92	60 68	27 days discharging.
		Total	...	...	...	120,203	205 143	189,281	636	2,732	517	...	...	3,775	183,086	...	...	...	...
		Total of the corresponding period of last year	...	...	...	...	...	120,531	62,334	7,685	376	...	...	70,394	180,923	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	1,411	28 07	...	61,720	53,519	63,922	...	...	...	...	...	...	63,228	...	55 32	1 03	47 77
		Panchkura	523	4 25	...	7,275	6,089	7,164	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,161	...	40 20	0 30	59 73
		Tidal Reaches, Ranges I & II	...	...	...	751	637	732	...	...	...	...	...	...	732	...	...	...	...
		Total	...	...	...	69,726	60,245	71,178	...	...	...	...	...	...	71,178	...	...	...	...
		Total of the corresponding period of last year	...	...	...	...	...	67,496	...	...	...	...	...	...	67,436	...	...	...	...
		Western Main	4,842	2,349	231	59,630	62,012	14,205	3,675	8 95	...	...	...	535	12,696	...	...	...	...
		SOUTH	Shahabad	Surar	1,226	295	241	104,777	128,157	64,482	13,078	17,829	8,647	38,214	...	41 63		0 85	29 35	27 40
Arrah	2,000			1,100	403	194,263	221,591	198,960	2,292	20,400	...	...	...	15,101	176,595	...	56 83	0 71	27 40
Eastern Main	1,406			289	104	84,894	100,330	65,755	1,104	2,905	...	...	...	54	2,403	...	66 06	0 26	37 25
Paina	...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,399	80,404	...	...	...	...
Total	...			...	...	417,567	541,176	297,687	25,613	49,743	...	...	...	27,089	113,444	...	...	...	...
Total of the corresponding period of last year	...			...	...	...	...	259,327	72,177	165,053	...	...	...	18,153	255,631	...	...	...	...
Grand total	...			...	...	677,796	804,961	548,158	27,139	53,474	517	...	...	27,089	107,219	...	...	...	...
Grand total of the corresponding period of last year	...			...	...	...	...	447,294	184,511	173,738	376	...	...	18,153	326,015	...	...	...	...
...	
...	

* There are no separate leases for sugarcane on the Sonu Canals. All leased fields of that crop now come under one of the other heads.

T. H. CLOWES,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 4th April 1898.

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

*Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 2nd April 1898,
as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.*

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 2ND APRIL 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 3RD APRIL 1897.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy ...	290	1,15,510	1,796	260	82,015	1,085
Jute ...	78	28,675	429	33	18,175	234
Firewood ...	37	24,550	879	124	75,425	1,141
Other articles ...	636	1,78,313	2,494	738	2,15,095	3,228
Total ...	1,041	3,47,048	5,098	1,140	3,90,710	5,688

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Abstract of principal Commodities carried over the Bengal Central Railway during the month of January 1898, as compared with the same month of the previous year.

STAPLES.	1898.		1897.		TOTAL.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	1898.	1897.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Coal and Coke carried for the Public and Foreign Railways.	1,640	67	3,503	36	1,716	3,539		1,813
Cotton, raw	2		3		2	3		
Cotton, manufactured—								
Twist and yarn, European	81		179		81	179		
Ditto, Indian			1			1		
Piece-goods, European	145		289		145	289		
Ditto, Indian	3		4		3	7		
Drugs and Chemicals—								
Intoxicating, other than Opium								
Non-intoxicating—								
Cinchona bark								
Others			2			2		
Dyes and Tans—								
Indigo		1		1	1	1		
Myrabolams								
Cutch								
Turmeric	6	6	6	1	13	6	6	
Aniline Dyes								
Others	1				1		1	
Grain and Pulse—								
Wheat			1			1		
Rice in the husk	103	370	68	131	403	199	204	1
Do. not in the husk	31	785	119	1,220	786	1,339		553
Jawar and bajra								
Gram and pulse	21	189	22	768	190	785		535
Others			1			1		1
Hides and Skins—								
Hides of cattle—								
Dressed or tanned								
Raw								
Skins of Sheep, &c.—		50		40	50	40	10	
Dressed or tanned								
Raw								
Horns								
Jute—								
Raw	3	944		609	947	609	338	
Gunny-bags and cloth	20	4	47	3	30	50		20
Lac—								
Stick	6				6		6	
Shell								
Leather, manufactured	7		6		7			
Liquors—								
Beer								
Spirits								
Wines	5		4		5	4	1	
Metals—								
Copper, unwrought								
Brass, ditto	8	1			9			
Copper, wrought								
Brass, ditto			13	10	23			
Iron	24	38	1		25			
Others	7	11	17	11	18	28		
Oil—								
Kerosine	99	16	166		115	166		51
Castor			1			1		
Coconut	7		7		7			
Others	30		139		30	139		109
Oilseeds—								
Mustard		8		14	8	14		
Sesamum	4	4	18	15	8	33		
Poppy				8		8		
Earth-nuts								
Castor								
Others								
Opium				1		1		
Paper and Pasteboard	8	1	7		9	7	2	
Provisions—								
Ghee	5		5		5	5		
Dried fruits and nuts								
Others	414	303	396	5	778	626	150	8
Railway plant and rolling-stock carried for the Public and Foreign Railways—								
Locomotives, engines, and tenders, and parts thereof.								
Carriages and trucks, and parts thereof								
Materials—								
Steel rails and fish-plates, sleepers, and keys of steel and cast-iron.								
Other sorts								
Salt								
Saltpetre, &c.—								
Saltpetre	1		2		1	2		
Other saline substances								
Silk, raw—								
Foreign								
Indian								
Silk piece-goods—								
Foreign								
Indian								
Muga								
Endi								

STAPLES.	1896.		1897.		TOTAL.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	1896.	1897.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Spices—								
Betel-nuts...		763	7	711	763	718	45	
Pepper								
Ginger								
Chillies	13	19	8	13	31	31	10	
Cardamoms								
Others	4	32	6	17	36	33	3	
Lime and limestone		1	1		1	1		
Sugar—								
Refined or crystallised, including sugar-candy.	31		3		31	3	28	
Unrefined, viz., molasses and jaggery or gur, and other saccharine produce.	42	137	76	368	179	374		105
Tea—								
Foreign								
Indian								
Timber	18		29		18	29		11
Tobacco—								
Unmanufactured	29	9	51	7	38	38		50
Manufactured—								
Cigars								
Other sorts								
Stone Ballast								
Wool, manufactured—	103				103		103	
Piece-goods, European								
Ditto, Indian								
Shawls								
All other articles of merchandise	190	208	258	160	398	418		20
Total	3,331	3,070	5,845	4,308	7,331	10,143	1,014	3,036

CALCUTTA, the 2nd April 1898.

T. SIDDLE,
Auditor.

Weekly Return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 19th March 1898 on 1,705.09 miles open

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week	303,770*	3,30,963 0 0*	47,40,376 10	9,27,402 4 0	23,584 0 0	12,89,038 4 0	91,075	175,553	266,628
per mile of railway	197 9 11	197 9 11	287 10 11	543 15 3	13 13 4	755 6 8	561 8 18	1,584,330	2,576,079
previous 10½ weeks of half-year.	3,340,380†	35,84,349 13 0†	4,37,38,608 20	85,05,943 14 0†	2,18,480 0 0	1,23,08,478 11 0	981,818	1,584,330	2,576,079
Total for 11½ weeks	3,644,150	39,21,311 13 0	4,84,78,984 30	94,33,153 2 0	2,42,070 0 0	1,35,06,956 15 0	1,072,023	1,767,783	2,840,707
COMPARISON.									
Traffic for corresponding week previous year	290,723	3,10,782 2 6	42,14,566 20	9,20,456 4 9	20,883 13 3	12,52,122 3 6	89,460	166,306	255,765
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year	182 9 1	182 9 1	240 11 7	540 11 7	13 4 4	735 9 0	561 8 18	1,584,330	2,576,079
for corresponding 11½ weeks of previous year	3,517,111†	37,46,899 3 6	4,59,81,720 20	94,11,264 11 0	2,45,918 3 1	1,36,04,082 1 7	1,033,032	1,714,684	2,748,616

* The increase is chiefly in outward traffic.

† Deducted No. of passengers 783 and added Rs. 9,034

‡ Added Mds. 3,05,973 and deducted

§ Ditto

.. 1,782

.. 2,378

On account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 29th January and 5th February 1898.

TARKESSUR BRANCH RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 19th March 1898 on 22.23 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week	23,854	6,683 15 0	18,467 0	881 8 0	10 0 0	6,975 7 0	1,085	103	1,188
per mile of railway	979 10 11	979 10 11	80 10 6	30 10 6	0 7 2	313 13 7	11,181	1,940	13,430
previous 10½ weeks of half-year.	259,130*	66,750 13 0*	1,73,449 10†	6,984 13 0†	88 0 0	72,823 9 0	11,181	1,940	13,430
Total for 11½ weeks	283,984	71,834 11 0	1,91,916 10	7,868 5 0	98 0 0	79,799 0 0	12,266	1,362	13,618
COMPARISON.									
Traffic for corresponding week previous year	25,507‡	6,546 5 1	19,013 20	727 3 0	6 7 6	7,280 0 4	1,098	93	1,190
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year	294 7 9	294 7 9	23 11 4	32 11 4	0 4 8	327 7 9	1,098	93	1,190
for corresponding 11½ weeks of previous year	279,149	69,350 9 5	2,22,841 10	7,911 1 0	65 1 0	77,326 11 5	12,460	1,103	13,563

* Added No. of passengers 1,908 and Rs. 235

† Deducted Mds. 7,537 and added

‡ Added

.. 84

.. 1

On account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 29th January and 5th February 1898.

DELHI-UMBALLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 19th March 1898 on 162.24 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week	19,068	18,516 4 0	1,09,347 10	15,975 5 0	85 0 0	24,579 9 0	6,513	6,342	12,854
per mile of railway	114 2 1	114 2 1	667 10 11	96 7 6	0 8 8	213 2 3	40,575	45,375	123,751
previous 10½ weeks of half-year.	380,434*	2,31,688 0 0*	10,67,004 20†	1,67,518 6 0†	969 0 0	2,30,293 6 0	76,876	45,375	123,751
Total for 11½ weeks	400,492	2,40,204 4 0	11,90,551 30	1,83,491 11 0	1,087 0 0	2,31,380 6 0	83,489	51,715	135,204
COMPARISON.									
Traffic for corresponding week previous year	16,390‡	17,764 5 3	1,12,596 0	13,635 0 0	114 4 6	31,713 9 9	6,425	4,076	10,501
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year	110 11 3	110 11 3	68 8 5	86 8 5	0 11 5	197 10 1	40,575	45,375	123,751
for corresponding 11½ weeks of previous year	180,380†	1,44,684 3 8	10,70,641 20	1,32,585 9 0	716 15 9	2,00,905 15 5	74,447	43,163	117,610

* Added No. of passengers 5,564 and

† Do. Mds. 31,60; and deducted

‡ Do.

.. 683

.. 137

On account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 29th January and 5th February 1898.

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 26th March 1893 on 817 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings, including ferry.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. c.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	197,050	1,16,100 0 0	10,16,000 0	1,55,420 0 0	30,800 0 0	3,02,380 0 0	35,800	32,261	68,061
Or per mile of railway ...	241	143 0 0	1,244 0	190 0 0	38 0 0	381 0 0	437	398	835
For previous 11 weeks of half-year†	2,241,134	11,43,808 0 0	1,03,16,420 0	18,54,900 0 0	1,67,761 0 0	31,81,526 0 0	378,452	403,570	782,022
Total for 12 weeks	2,438,184	12,59,908 0 0	1,13,32,420 0	20,20,380 0 0	1,98,561 0 0	34,83,906 0 0	414,312	435,831	850,143
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding period of previous year ...	102,638	1,11,785 0 0	11,84,410 0	1,47,805 0 0	43,058 0 0	3,02,401 0 0	35,971	34,063	70,034
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	257	137 0 0	1,435 0	181 0 0	44 0 0	308 0 0	437	398	835
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	2,402,587	12,45,089 0 0	1,05,94,408 0	14,55,093 0 0	1,97,907 0 0	29,98,639 0 0	408,106	400,637	808,743

* Excluding ferry earnings.

† Audited up to 29th January 1893.

DACCA STATE RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 26th March 1893 on 66 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. c.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	24,000	7,920 0 0	27,420 0	3,230 0 0	90 0 0	11,240 0 0	2,687	1,146	3,833
Or per mile of railway ...	279	93 0 0	319 0	38 0 0	1 0 0	151 0 0	317	139	456
For previous 11 weeks of half-year*	204,419	66,297 0 0	497,097 0	53,370 0 0	2,183 0 0	1,40,860 0 0	31,645	20,068	51,713
Total for 12 weeks	200,419	1,63,217 0 0	524,497 0	56,600 0 0	2,273 0 0	1,61,090 0 0	34,332	21,213	55,545
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	23,641	7,268 0 0	47,408 0	3,267 0 0	529 0 0	11,144 0 0	2,686	1,203	3,889
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	263	84 0 0	551 0	39 0 0	6 0 0	159 0 0	317	139	456
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	203,300	69,733 0 0	417,181 0	52,708 0 0	2,450 0 0	1,16,895 0 0	30,633	14,063	44,696

* Audited up to 29th January 1893.

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 26th March 1893 on 125 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. c.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	31,751	14,604 0 0	50,410 0	4,234 0 0	11,010 0 0	25,838 0 0	4,800	2,216	7,016
Or per mile of railway ...	254	118 0 0	472 0	34 0 0	88 0 0	240 0 0	384	177	561
For previous 11 weeks of half-year*	3,45,173	1,58,900 0 0	737,145 0	49,452 0 0	12,476 0 0	2,17,897 0 0	50,315	23,250	73,565
Total for 12 weeks	3,76,924	1,70,603 0 0	789,553 0	53,686 0 0	23,486 0 0	2,47,935 0 0	55,175	30,474	85,649
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	31,823	12,696 0 0	46,850 0	4,209 0 0	4,470 0 0	21,304 0 0	4,005	2,074	6,079
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	255	102 0 0	551 0	34 0 0	36 0 0	172 0 0	322	168	490
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	4,19,981	1,82,112 0 0	900,928 0	58,457 0 0	5,936 0 0	2,20,807 0 0	60,303	31,953	92,256

* Audited up to 29th January 1893.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

(INCLUDES TIRHUT STATE RAILWAY.)

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending 19th March 1898 on 827 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated), including steam-boat.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
Traffic for the week on 827 miles open	111,490	Rs. (a) 45,220	Mds. 4,89,810	Rs. (b) 56,370	Rs. (b) 24,010	Rs. (b) 1,20,400	17,815	(c) 25,213	43,028
... mile of railway	135'06	54'68	402'27	68'40	29'76	152'84	.....	.....	.....
... previous 10 weeks of half-year	1,052,856	4,75,306	52,16,868	6,70,289	1,89,329	13,54,914	1,83,840	246,379	430,219
Total for 11½ weeks	1,164,346	5,20,526	57,06,698	7,20,858	2,13,030	14,61,314	2,09,655	271,592	475,247
COMPARISON.									
... corresponding week of this year on 819 miles open	91,961	38,827	4,86,817	45,391	18,210	1,02,457	14,140	(d) 23,153	37,292
... of railway corresponding week of previous year	113'28	47'41	596'85	55'42	22'25	125'08	.....	.....	.....
... to corresponding date previous year	1,213,290	4,83,613	53,68,311	6,02,965	1,82,926	12,60,594	1,72,203	241,056	413,320

(a) Increase is due to traffic having been abnormally low last year.

(b) Includes 1,470 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

(c) .. audited figures for first 8 days of January 1898.

(d) .. 2,156 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 19th March 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
Traffic for the week	25,573	Rs. A. P. 15,003 0 0	Mds. S. 2,17,593 0	Rs. A. P. 8,630 0 0	Rs. A. P. 425 0 0	Rs. A. P. 24,058 0 0	2,732	4,735	7,467
... mile of railway	89'7	52'46	700'81 0	30'17	1'49	84'12	9'56	16'52	26'07
... previous 10 weeks of half-year	266,160	1,57,767 0 0	23,12,278 0	56,857 0 0	4,437 0 0	2,40,061 0 0	30,851	43,808	74,659
Total for 11 weeks	291,733	1,72,770 0 0	25,29,871 0	65,487 0 0	4,862 0 0	2,73,119 0 0	33,583	48,527	82,110
COMPARISON.									
... corresponding week of this year	20,769	12,433 0 0	1,19,076 0	7,810 0 0	270 0 0	20,515 0 0	3,372	6,169	9,541
... of railway corresponding week of previous year	59'09	35'78	330'77	21'70	0'75	53'13	10'26	17'11	27'37
... to corresponding date of this year	328,718	1,40,843 0 0	16,85,096 0	1,03,624 0 0	5,323 0 0	2,49,680 0 0	43,809	60,300	120,229

* Includes audited figures up to week ending 19th February 1898.

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 19TH MARCH 1898.			RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 20TH MARCH 1897.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 19TH MARCH 1898.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1896 TO 20TH MARCH 1897.			Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease in 1896.
Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Rs.	
Rs. 24,058	84'12	360	Rs. 20,615	55'18	286	Rs. 9,85,768	...	360	Rs. 6,67,024	...	...	Rs. 3,18,732	.....

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate earnings for the week ending 26th March 1898	...	...	Rs. A. P. 11,979 0 0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	14,093 0 11
Decrease	...	...	2,114 0 11
Receipts per mile for the week ending 26th March 1898	...	...	234 14 1
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897	...	...	276 5 4
Decrease	...	...	41 7 3
Receipts from 1st January to 26th March 1898	...	...	1,38,140 0 0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	1,47,918 0 0
Decrease	...	...	9,778 0 0



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

[Non-Subscribers to the GAZETTE may receive the SUPPLEMENT separately on payment of Six Rupees per annum if delivered in Calcutta, or Twelve Rupees if sent by Post.]

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WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 11th April 1898.

Burdwan.—No rain. Weather hot. Pressing of sugarcane finished. Harvesting of potatoes nearly over. Rain wanted for ploughing. Some cattle-pox reported.

Birbhum.—No rain. Weather hot and cloudy in morning. Manuring of fields going on. Price of common rice at Sadar 13·8 seers, and at Rampur Hât 14·8 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Bankura.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Price of common rice 15 seers per rupee at Sadar and Vishnupur.

Midnapore.—No rain. Prospects of boro paddy and *tâl* good and of indigo fair. Prices of common rice:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	13	} per rupee.
Contai	15 to 16	
Ghatal	13	
Tamluk	13	

Hooghly.—No rain. Weather very hot. Rain badly wanted for cultivation. Cattle-disease reported from Polba police-station. Common rice sells from 11 to 13½ seers per rupee.

Howrah.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Boro rice in Ulubaria withering for want of rain. Rain is also required to facilitate ploughing. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. No crops on the ground. Rain is very badly wanted for tillage of lands. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	10 to 13	} per rupee.
Barasat	12½	
Basirhat	13½	
Diamond Harbour	13	

Nadia.—No rain. Weather very hot. Ploughing continues; but rain badly wanted throughout the district. Common rice selling at 11 to 13 seers 14 chittacks per rupee. Fodder sufficient. Water becoming scarce in parts. No cattle-disease.

Murshidabad.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* almost over. State of indigo and mulberry favourable. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder sufficient. Rain much needed. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	...	13½
Kandi	...	15
Jangipur	...	14½

} per rupee.

Jessore.—No rain. Weather warmer than previous week. Rain badly wanted for cultivation of *aus* and jute. No cattle-disease reported. Want of drinking-water is being felt in Jhenida and Narail. Fodder insufficient in Jhenida. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	...	12 to 13
Jhenida	...	11
Magura	...	11-7 ch. to 11-8 ch.
Narail	...	11-6 ch.
Bangaon	...	12 to 14

} per rupee.

Khulna.—No rain. Weather hot. Prospect of *boro* paddy worse for want of rain. Cultivation of *aus* going on. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	...	13
Bagerhat	...	12½

} per rupee.

Rajshahi.—No rain. Weather much hotter. Prospects of crops good. Rain badly wanted. Condition of cattle good. Fodder and water available. Price of common rice ranges from 12 to 15 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Rainfall nil. Weather cloudy with easterly wind. Cultivation for *bhadoi* and jute crops going on. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall at Sadar nil, Alipur Duars 90. Weather hot. Lands are being cultivated for *bhadoi* and jute. Sowing of *bhadoi* commenced in places. Rain badly wanted. Harvesting of tobacco continues. No want of fodder and drinking-water. Common rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—No rain. Ploughing for jute and sowing of *aus* continue. Weeding of *aus* going on. Rain needed on light soils. Harvesting of *rabi* crops in progress. Prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient except at Kurigram, where they are reported scarce in places. Good drinking-water also reported scarce in places in Gaibanda.

Bogra.—Rainfall nil. Lands being prepared for jute and *aus*. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling at 12 to 14½ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops good, but rain urgently needed everywhere. Rice sells from 10 to 12 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease reported from Sirajganj thana. Fodder sufficient.

Dacca.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Ploughing for *aus* and jute proceeding. Rain much needed. Fodder available. No cattle-disease. Want of good drinking-water in interior. Common rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot and oppressive. Lands under preparation. Rain much wanted for sowing. Common rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Faridpur.—No rain. Weather hot. Rain wanted. Prospects good. Price of rice 12 seers per rupee.

Backergunge.—Rainfall nil. Weather warm. Rain wanted for crops. Common rice sells from 16 to 14 seers per rupee. No cattle-disease reported.

Tippera.—No rain. Nights and mornings fairly cool. Strong southerly wind all day. Rain wanted for sowing of paddy and jute. Cattle-disease reported from Bancharampur thana. Fodder sufficient. Rice sells from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—Rainfall nil. Weather cloudy and hot. Ploughing continues. Rain badly wanted. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water not sufficient. Price of rice 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* crops being gathered. Fodder bad and drinking-water scarce in the wave-swept area. Rice selling at 12 seers per rupee.

Patna.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* nearly finished. Sugarcane and *china* being sown. Prices almost stationary. Fodder and water for cattle sufficient. Common rice selling at Patna 16½ seers per rupee.

Gaya.—No rain. *Rabi* harvesting approaching completion. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Rice sells at 13½ seers, barley 20 seers, wheat 13 seers, gram 17½ seers, and arhar 19 seers per rupee.

Shahabad.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* nearly completed. Sowing of *china* and sugarcane continuing. Cattle-disease reported from one village in Sasaram. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Saran.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* harvest almost finished. Threshing in progress. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices at Chapra are—common rice 13 seers and *makai* 21·9 seers against 9·8 seers and 11 seers respectively last year.

Champaran.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* continues; yield satisfactory. Lands being prepared for *bhadoi* and *aghani*. Common rice and maize sell at Sadar at 12½ and 21 seers per rupee respectively, against average 14½ and 20½ seers.

Muzaffarpur.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* crops approaching completion. Threshing in progress. Prospects good. Prices are—common rice 10 to 13 seers, wheat 13 to 14 seers, *makai* 20 seers, gram 17 seers, *rahar* 17 seers, and *marua* 22 seers per rupee.

Darbhanga.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* not yet completed. Fields are being prepared for *bhadoi*. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells at Sadar 12 to 13 seers per rupee.

Monghyr.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* crops nearly finished. Prospects favourable. *Mahua* and mango prospects good. No cattle-disease. Common rice sells as follows:—

Monghyr	...	...	...	12 to 15 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	11½ to 13 " "
Jamui	...	...	...	13 " "

Bhagalpur.—No rain. Nights still cool. Strong west wind occasionally. Harvesting of *rabi* crops continues.

Purnea.—No rain. Days hot; nights cool. *Rabi* harvest begun. Ploughing and sowing of *bhadoi* crops going on. A few cases of sporadic cattle-pox reported from Araria. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	15 seers per rupee.
Kishanganj	...	...	...	15 " "
Araria	...	...	...	16 " "

Malda.—No rain. Days hot; nights still cool. Harvesting of *rabi* crops continues. Lands being prepared for *aus* paddy and jute. Rain urgently needed for sowing of *bhadoi* crops. Ordinary rice sells at 14 seers per rupee. No want of drinking-water.

Sonthal Parganas.—No rain. *Rabi* harvest going on in Rajmahal and Pakour. *Mahua* falling, a good crop. Sugarcane and mango promise well, but rain needed. Price of common rice 13 to 15 seers and of maize 17 to 20 seers per rupee. Fodder and water as usual getting scarce.

Cuttack.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Threshing of *guru sarad* and pressing of sugarcane still continue. *Dalua* ripening and being harvested in places. New sugarcane being planted. Tobacco being gathered. Condition of cattle generally good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs. ch.	
Cuttack	15 12) per rupee.
Jajpur	...	...	...	18 6
Kendrapara	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	16 13

Balasore.—Rainfall nil. Threshing of *sarad* and harvesting of *rabi* crops continue. *Dalua* ripening. Cotton growing well. Sugarcane being pressed. Price of rice varies from 15 to 19 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 15 and 18 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively. Fodder and water sufficient.

Angul.—No rain. Weather hot. Price of common rice stationary. Cattle-disease reported to be subsiding.

Puri.—No rain. *Dalua* paddy in ear. *Mung* being harvested. Lands being ploughed. Prospects of *rabi* crops generally good. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Price of common rice almost stationary.

Hazaribagh.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Full crops of *mahua* and mango expected. Price of rice 12 to 15 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—No rain. Reaping of *rahar* and wheat finished. *Mahua* is being gathered. Rice sells at Ranchi 11 seers, and in the interior from 12 to 16 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palamau.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* harvesting still continues; a 12-anna outturn expected. *Mahua* falling in fair quantities. Rice selling at 12 seers per rupee. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient.

Manbhum.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops good. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Average price of common rice at Sadar 15 seers and at Gobindpur 14 seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

Singhbhum.—Rainfall nil. Rice plentiful, and price from 12 to 16 seers per rupee.

General Summary.—There was no rain during the week except .90 at Alipur Duars. Rain is generally required for ploughing and early sowings. In some districts the spring crops are also in need of rain. In Orissa the *dahua* or spring rice is ripening, and cutting has been commenced in places. The harvesting of the *rabi* crops is being rapidly completed, and the outturn is generally expected to be good. The planting of new sugarcane is going on. The *mahua* crop in the Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions is being gathered, and promises to yield a good outturn. There has been no important change in the price of rice since the last report. Cattle disease continues in Lohardaga and Angul, but is subsiding in the latter district. Cattle-disease is also reported from parts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Pabna, Tippera, and Purnea. Deficiency of fodder and water is reported from places in Central and Eastern Bengal and in the Sonthal Parganas.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

The 12th April 1898.

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from
3rd to 9th April 1898.

Date.	Maximum in sun.	Number of hours of bright sunshine.	Mean pressure barometer at 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.				HYGROMETRY.				WIND.		Rain.	WEATHER.
				Mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Mean wet bulb.	Vapour tension.	Dew point.	Humidity.	Prevailing direction.	Miles recorded.		
3rd	150.7	10.0	29.742	85.9	98.6	22.9	75.7	78.1	0.838	74.6	63	SW and SSW	173	Nil	Partially cloudy.
4th	152.8	9.7	748	85.5	98.0	22.5	76.1	77.8	830	74.3	■	SW by S and SSW	175	"	Day clear, night partially cloudy.
5th	149.6	9.9	708	84.8	96.0	20.8	75.2	77.2	883	73.7	70	S and SSW	145	"	Partially cloudy.
6th	153.7	9.6	740	85.9	98.3	23.1	75.2	77.4	826	73.5	■	SW by S and SSW	170	"	Partially cloudy.
7th	148.5	9.6	729	85.2	91.6	18.1	76.5	77.5	841	74.0	69	SSW and S	203	"	Partially cloudy.
8th	154.5	9.5	654	88.6	103.4	25.7	77.7	78.5	735	70.8	56	SW by S and S	153	"	Day clear, night partially cloudy.
9th	152.3	9.4	772	87.0	98.3	21.2	77.4	76.2	759	71.0	59	S by W and variable.	70	"	Partially cloudy.

The mean pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.727

The average pressure of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 29.773

The total number of hours of bright sunshine Hours. 67.7

The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine 87.1

The mean temperature of the seven days 86.1

The average temperature of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 84.4

The extreme variation of temperature 24.2

The maximum temperature 103.4

The highest velocity of the wind in one hour Miles. 12

The mean relative humidity % 65

The average relative humidity of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 68

The total fall of rain from 3rd to 9th April 1898 Inches. Nil

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 0.44

The total fall from 1st January to 9th April 1898 0.36

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 3.25

The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph, and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are obtained from self-registering thermometers. All the thermometers are verified and the readings have been corrected to a standard constructed and verified at the Alipore Observatory. They are exposed under a thatched shed open at the sides, and are suspended four feet above the ground.

The barometer readings are corrected approximately to those of the standard, Newman's No. 86, formerly at the Surveyor-General's Office.

The hygrometric elements are obtained from Tables III, IV, and V of the official tables computed in the Meteorological Office, and based on Regnault's modifications of August's formula.

The directions and the movement of the wind are taken from the trace of a Beckley's anemograph.

The mouth of the rain-gauge is one foot above the ground.

Δ, dew.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, GOVT. OF INDIA,
Calcutta, the 11th April 1898.

J. H. GILLILAND,
For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of India

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 3rd to 9th April 1898.

MONTH.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.					HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.	
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.		Humidity at 10 A.M.
1898.		Inches.	°	°		°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
April	3rd	20.814	88.9	101.5	25.2	76.3	90.3	81.5	.953	77.7	67	No.
"	4th	" 812	88.7	101.0	24.7	76.3	91.6	82.3	.979	78.6	66	"
"	5th	" 774	87.6	99.0	22.8	76.2	88.4	79.5	.883	75.6	65	"
"	6th	" 808	88.7	101.0	24.7	76.3	89.6	81.5	.969	78.3	70	"
"	7th	" 802	87.1	97.5	20.9	76.6	89.6	80.5	.919	76.7	66	"
"	8th	" 730	91.4	105.0	27.2	77.8	93.4	82.0	.938	77.8	60	"
"	9th	" 834	89.4	101.0	23.2	77.8	90.4	79.5	.861	74.7	60	"

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.796

The mean temperature of the seven days ° 88.8

The extreme variation of temperature ° 28.8

The maximum temperature ° 105.0

The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days % 65

The total fall of rain from 3rd to 9th April 1898 Inches. Nil.

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 11th April 1898.

O. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

Weekly Return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways.

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 2nd April 1893 on 817 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings, including ferry.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
Actual traffic for the week ...	233,000	Rs. 1,23,530 0 0	Mds. 8,00,300 0	Rs. 1,21,780 0 0	Rs. 6,190 0 0	Rs. 2,51,770 0 0	33,140	36,970	69,910
per mile of railway ...	285	152 0 0	950 0	149 0 0	1 0 0	307 0 0	...	...	...
previous 11½ weeks of half-year ...	2,446,836	12,70,647 0 0	1,14,63,438 0	20,20,665 0 0	1,91,906 0 0	34,91,415 0 0	417,367	467,600	914,970
Total for 12 weeks ...	2,682,356	13,94,667 0 0	1,22,03,848 0	21,42,445 0 0	2,00,096 0 0	37,42,183 0 0	449,410	504,470	953,880
COMPARISON.									
Actual for corresponding period of previous year ...	193,368	1,02,970 0 0	9,00,791 0	1,20,837 0 0	10,360 0 0	2,40,066 0 0	33,146	27,990	71,146
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	236	136 0 0	1,107 0	155 0 0	5 0 0	287 0 0	...	...	...
Actual to corresponding date of previous year ...	2,064,680	14,43,520 0 0	1,14,95,199 0	18,91,960 0 0	2,06,366 0 0	22,36,716 0 0	441,253	484,636	925,889

* Excluding ferry earnings.

† Audited up to 5th February 1893.

DACCA STATE RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 2nd April 1893 on 86 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
Actual traffic for the week ...	60,410	Rs. 90,750 0 0	Mds. 19,740 0	Rs. 1,780 0 0	Rs. 150 0 0	Rs. 23,680 0 0	2,574	1,908	2,003
per mile of railway ...	702	241 0 0	230 0	20 0 0	1 0 0	268 0 0	...	...	...
previous 11½ weeks of half-year ...	891,011	1,03,617 0 0	238,374 0	50,363 0 0	1,633 0 0	1,00,713 0 0	24,373	21,243	45,616
Total for 12 weeks ...	951,421	1,33,247 0 0	258,114 0	52,143 0 0	1,983 0 0	1,03,373 0 0	26,946	23,151	50,097
COMPARISON.									
Actual for corresponding week of previous year ...	20,303	6,124 0 0	20,000 0	3,919 0 0	80 0 0	10,143 0 0	2,696	1,480	4,246
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	237	71 0 0	486 0	46 0 0	1 0 0	118 0 0	...	...	...
Actual to corresponding date of previous year ...	831,693	86,993 0 0	463,981 0	87,021 0 0	2,540 0 0	1,27,027 0 0	23,590	16,643	40,233

* Audited up to 5th February 1893.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

(INCLUDES TIRHUT STATE RAILWAY.)

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending 26th March 1893 on 854½ miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated), including steam-boat.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
Actual traffic for the week on 854½ miles open ...	(a) 116,980	(a) 48,540	(b) 5,30,000	(b) 62,400	Rs. 21,000	(a) 1,30,120	19,144	(c) 24,536	43,680
per mile of railway ...	136 98	56 84	621 43	81 37	24 80	152 99	...	...	...
previous 11½ weeks of half-year (d) ...	1,166,632	5,18,940	56,94,603	7,35,036	2,11,123	14,63,106	2,03,435	272,409	475,844
Total for 12½ weeks ...	1,283,612	5,67,480	62,25,293	8,04,633	2,32,123	16,04,225	2,21,579	296,944	518,523
COMPARISON.									
Actual for corresponding week of previous year on 819 miles open ...	109,303	41,807	4,18,766	61,003	21,215	1,24,824	14,630	(e) 22,127	37,007
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	133 34	51 06	755 54	75 40	26 90	153 41	...	...	...
Actual to corresponding date of previous year ...	1,221,801	5,25,419	60,67,006	8,04,706	2,04,141	13,94,306	1,97,123	264,163	461,286

* The increase of 27 miles in the open mileage is due to the opening to public traffic of the Nampara Katarmian Ghat Branch on and from the 26th March 1893, vide Traffic Superintendent's No. 11, to the Auditor of Accounts.

(a) Increase is due to traffic having been abnormally low last year.

(b) The decreased weight with increased freight is due to large quantities of food-grains having been carried over short leads last year.

(c) Includes 1,174 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

(d) Audited figures up to week ending 16th January 1893.

(e) 2,660 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 26th March 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES ETC.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	26,123	16,250 0 0	2,40,772 0	8,133 0 0	880 0 0	26,250 0 0	2,925	4,551	7,476
Or per mile of railway ...	91.34	56.73	873.40 0	28.33	3.08	91.79	10.23	16.02	26.25
For previous 11 weeks of half-year ...	261,831	1,72,770 0 0	25,21,871 0	96,487 0 0	4,862 0 0	2,73,119 0 0	33,563	49,527	83,090
Total for 12 weeks ...	317,954	1,89,020 0 0	27,73,603 0	1,04,620 0 0	5,742 0 0	2,89,372 0 0	36,508	59,085	95,593
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	19,826	11,420 0 0	1,53,419 0	6,083 0 0	1,046 0 0	18,759 0 0	2,476	6,431	8,907
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	67.96	39.93	420.19	17.45	3.60	65.20	8.69	17.86	26.55
Total for corresponding date of previous year ...	238,644	1,52,303 0 0	18,39,625 0	1,09,817 0 0	6,300 0 0	2,68,445 0 0	40,246	59,729	100,000

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 26TH MARCH 1898.			RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 27TH MARCH 1897.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 26TH MARCH 1898.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1896 TO 27TH MARCH 1897.			Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease in 1897.
Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.		
286	Rs. 26,250	91.79	300	Rs. 16,750	55.83	236	Rs. 10,10,308*	...	300	Rs. 6,35,793	...	Rs. 1,41,400	...

* Includes minus Rs. 1,801 as per Supplementary Audited Return for half-year ending 31st December 1897.

DARJELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate earnings for the week ending 2nd April 1898	...	...	Rs. 12,104 0 0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	Rs. 13,648 6 0
Decrease	...	...	Rs. 1,544 6 0
Receipts per mile for the week ending 2nd April 1898	...	...	Rs. 42.7 4
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897	...	...	Rs. 45.10
Decrease	...	...	Rs. 2.36
Receipts from 1st January to 2nd April 1898	...	...	Rs. 1,60,244 0 0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	Rs. 1,61,567 0 0
Decrease	...	...	Rs. 1,323 0 0



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

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Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 2nd April, 1898.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.
 The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL, K.C.I.E., Advocate-General of Bengal.
 The Hon'ble W. H. GRIMLEY.
 The Hon'ble H. H. RISLEY, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble RAI DURGA GATI BANERJEE, BAHADUR, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble J. PRATT.
 The Hon'ble NAWAB SYUD AMER HOSSEIN, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.
 The Hon'ble W. B. OLDHAM, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble R. B. BUCKLEY.
 The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. C. TURNER.
 The Hon'ble NORENDRA NATH SEN.
 The Hon'ble SALIGRAM SINGH.
 The Hon'ble KALI CHARAN BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble SURENDRANATH BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble JATRA MOHAN SEN.
 The Hon'ble T. W. SPINK.

AMENDMENT OF THE BENGAL TENANCY ACT, 1885.

THE Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, be taken into consideration, and that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee.

The Motions were put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE moved that the words "or in neighbouring villages" be omitted from section 2 of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Charan Banerjee also moved that the words "or neighbouring villages" be omitted from clause (f) of section 3 of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Babu Kali Charan Banerjee also moved that the words "or villages" be omitted from sub-section (1) of section 31A in section 4 of the Bill.

He said:—"My reasons for moving these amendments are these. In the first place, it does not appear whether the clause is intended to give the landlord the option of choosing whether he should draw the materials for his evidence from the same village or from neighbouring villages; or whether the intention is that he should be limited in the first instance to such evidence as may be available in the same village, and that only when it is not possible for him even to start a case on such materials as may be available in the same village, he should be permitted to draw the materials for his evidence from neighbouring villages. That is not clear. Then further, inasmuch as in the older law another expression was used, namely, 'adjacent places,' the phrase 'neighbouring villages,' vague as it is, will be rendered doubly vague by suggesting that a distinction is meant to be drawn between 'adjacent places,' as used in the previous Act, and 'neighbouring villages' as used in this Bill. The object of introducing these words 'or in neighbouring villages' into the section, I understand, is to give further facilities to landlords to prove their case when they seek enhancement. It is pointed out—I refer to page 3 of the Abstract of Opinions—by the District Judge of Burdwan that 'nothing has been shown why landlords should have further facilities given them for the purpose of enhancing rents. If statistics be collected, it will be seen that the landlords are still too eager to have rents enhanced on false pretexts.' Nobody has shown why further facilities should be placed at their disposal. In page 1 of the Abstract, the District Judge of Murshidabad says:—"One very strong argument against extending the area from which a zamindar may draw his evidence is the custom already in vogue of manufacturing evidence of high rates." Thus we have the opinion of two District Judges on both points, namely, that there is no reason why the area from which evidence may be produced should be extended and further facilities afforded for enhancing rents, and that there is every reason why the area should not be extended for giving them further facilities. Then referring to page 4 of the Abstract, where we have the opinion of the Board of Revenue, reference is made to the position taken by Mr. Nolan, which deserves every consideration. They say:—"Of the officers who have considered this section, Mr. Nolan is the most strongly opposed to it. He says that the old Regulations took the pargana rates as the standard, while Regulation V of 1812 introduced the rate payable in 'places adjacent' as the standard, according to which rents might be increased or decreased. Act X of 1859 retained this definition of 'prevailing rate' for purposes of enhancement only. It was found that Revenue Officers abused the reference to 'places adjacent,' and the Tenancy Act of 1885 reduced the area of comparison to the village, on the ground that a raiyat could not produce evidence as to rates outside his village." We have it, therefore, that at one time something corresponding to what it is now proposed to introduce was the law, and it was found that that law was abused, and so the Tenancy Act of 1885 restricted the area of comparison to the village in which the land was situate. It is proposed to go back to the law which was abused laying aside all consideration of the ground upon which the area of comparison was restricted in 1885, namely, that the raiyat could not produce evidence as to rates outside his village. We have it further in page 6 of the Abstract, to refer still to the opinion of the Board of Revenue, that

‘if the raiyats have legal decisions in their favour which make it difficult to use the prevailing rate against them, they are entitled to retain this advantage, even though it be inconvenient to Revenue Officers.’ And lower down, we have it that ‘Mr. Nolan’s argument that a raiyat cannot be asked to get evidence outside his own village is correct in principle.’ Thus we have it that it was once found necessary to reduce the area of comparison to the village, the expression ‘adjacent places’ having been found to be very vague and liable to be abused. I submit there is no reason why we should practically go back to the old law and introduce the expression ‘neighbouring villages’ while it does not appear what the intention is, whether to confine the landlord, in the first instance, to the village, or to allow him to import evidence from neighbouring villages at his option. These are the reasons which have induced me to move this amendment.”

The Hon’ble S^r CHARLES PAUL said:—“I oppose this amendment. I think the expression ‘neighbouring village’ is a very proper phrase. In practice we often find that similar lands cannot be found immediately adjacent to the land in dispute. In such cases we should go to the neighbouring village, and I think it is quite right to do so.”

The Hon’ble M^r. FINUCANE said:—“I also object to this amendment. The question simply is, whether the area of comparison should be confined to the village itself or extended to neighbouring villages. I stated at length when I introduced the Bill, and afterwards when I moved that it be referred to a Select Committee, the reasons which induced the Government to extend the area of comparison, and I do not propose to repeat them. When the Bengal Tenancy Act was passed there was no charge more frequently levelled against the Government of Bengal than this, that it showed undue bias in favour of raiyats and against landlords, and that charge has been made ever since up to the present time; it is significant now that the Government proposes to relax in a very moderate and reasonable degree the restriction which the law then imposed, that Hon’ble Members who represent the popular view should oppose the amendment of the law. There is scarcely a single alteration proposed in the law in favour of zamindars which one or other of those Hon’ble Members is not prepared to strike out. As for the reasons given in support of the amendment now proposed, it is said that the section as it stands is not clear, that it is difficult to say whether the intention is that the zamindar should be compelled to give evidence if possible from the same village and failing that to get evidence from neighbouring villages, or whether it is meant that he may select the evidence which he should give from the same or neighbouring villages at his pleasure. But the Hon’ble Member, instead of proposing an amendment which would make that point clear, proposes to omit the ‘neighbouring village’ altogether. If his intention is to make the section clear, then he should have by his amendment provided that the zamindar should first go to the village itself, and then, if evidence as to a prevailing rate was not forthcoming in it, to the neighbouring villages. Secondly, there is the general objection that the Hon’ble Member has urged to giving any further facilities to zamindars for enhancement of rent, but that objection has been discarded over and over again. There are persons who accuse the zamindars of fabricating evidence, of instituting false suits and preparing fictitious rates of rent. I do not see what that has to do with this particular question. If the zamindars fabricate evidence of fictitious rates, they will do so whether you confine the area to the village or extend it to neighbouring villages. At all events I do not think an accusation of that kind should be lightly made against a body of men like the zamindars of Bengal or brought forward as a reason against this section. Some opinions have been quoted against this section, but the vast preponderance of opinion is in favour of it. Then it is said that Mr. Nolan has pointed out that the raiyat cannot be expected to produce evidence outside his own village. He is not expected to do so. The zamindar produces the evidence; all that the raiyat has to do, if he is dissatisfied with the evidence produced by the zamindar, is to rebut it by getting evidence to contradict it from the same or neighbouring villages. The Select Committee preferred ‘neighbouring villages’ to ‘places adjacent,’ as being more definite and more narrow in its scope.”

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said:—"It will be in the recollection of the Council that I raised this question at the time when the motion was made to refer this Bill to a Select Committee. I pointed out that this provision in the Bill practically amounted to an abandonment of a concession which had been made in the interests of the raiyats. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill has introduced some personal considerations into this controversy. It has been observed by the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane that Hon'ble Members were in favour of the zamindars when the Government wanted to legislate on behalf of the raiyats. [The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I said the accusation had been raised against the Government of Bengal of being on the side of the raiyats."] Further it has been said that the hon'ble mover of the amendment ought not to have quoted certain observations which had been made by certain Judges. Those observations were not the observations of the Hon'ble Member but of certain high officials of the Government, and my hon'ble friend was quite right in laying them before the Council. If they involved reflections upon the zamindars, my hon'ble friend was not responsible for them. I venture to submit that not a shadow of a case has been made out for this important alteration of the law. The Select Committee has submitted a report which is very short and sweet, but not the smallest reference is made to some of the cardinal points in the Bill which are in opposition to the interests of the raiyats. I have great pleasure in supporting this amendment."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"This question of the 'prevailing rate' has always been a vexed one on which different opinions have been held by different classes of persons. So far from the adoption of the section as it stands in the existing Act being intended as a concession to the raiyats, it was intended and definitely declared to be a concession to the zamindars. Very many authorities were at that time in favour of leaving out the 'prevailing rate' as a ground of enhancement of rent altogether. It was, however, retained, and, as I said, distinctly declared to be a concession to zamindars. Now it has been proved by experience that the concession as it stands in the Act is unworkable and more or less a fraud on zamindars, and therefore it has been for many years urged by competent authorities, among whom was Sir Charles Elliott and the Board of Revenue, that some alteration of the law is necessary. I proposed that a comparison should be made between the rates in the village and in such neighbouring areas as might be fairly comparable, raising thereby the direct issue whether the villages examined are fairly comparable in the matter of rates or not. The Select Committee has preferred to adopt the phrase 'neighbouring villages,' and I am not prepared to say they are wrong. Originally what was to be considered the prevailing rate was the pargana rate. But a pargana includes many villages, and the history of the thing is that when Act X was passed the idea was that the pargana rates were uncertain, and therefore the framers of that Act adopted the phrase 'for lands of similar description with similar advantages in places adjacent.' It was pointed out at the time that that expression was vague, and it was undoubtedly used to the prejudice of raiyats. I do not know whether any one would suppose that the sympathies of either the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane or myself would be against raiyats. But we wish to be fair to zamindars also. The intention is that this ground of enhancement be made workable on a rational basis; for to confine the comparison to the village is practically impossible, because as Sir Charles Elliott said, a revenue village is an area which may contain a hundred or a thousand acres, or it may consist of scattered places far apart. It appeared to me, therefore, that the rate prevailing in the neighbourhood of the land in dispute was the proper test, and the Select Committee has adopted the phrase 'in the village or in neighbouring villages.' If we remember that a landlord claiming enhancement on this ground has to prove his case to the satisfaction either of a Civil Court or of a Settlement Officer, I do not think there is much risk to the raiyat from the phrase as it stands. At any rate the Select Committee, after considering the reports which have been received have adopted that phrase, and I see no reason for departing from their recommendation."

The Motions were put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE, by leave of the Council, withdrew the motion that section 2 of the Bill be omitted.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN moved that section 31A in section 4 of the Bill be omitted.

He said:—"Though I signed the report of the Select Committee, I reserved to myself the right to move any amendments I liked, and the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill will be able to bear me out on this point. I make this motion on three grounds. First, that it will be difficult to work this section, and almost impossible to find out the prevailing rate by the method of calculation contemplated by this section; secondly, that it will be extremely difficult to classify lands and ascertain their different rates of rent in the manner indicated in the illustration, and thirdly, that it will give opportunities to zamindars' agents to manipulate forced or fictitious rates of rent; and thus this provision of law, though probably correct in principle, might be turned into one engine of oppression. I should prefer to leave the law as it stands at present, and as it has been interpreted in various decisions of the High Court and the Privy Council. It is not alleged that that interpretation has caused any great hardship or any failures of justice. I therefore move that the section be omitted."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I oppose this amendment. The reasons given by my hon'ble friend for modifying or omitting this section are practically the same as those urged for the previous amendment which has been lost, namely, that it is not desirable to give any facilities for the enhancement of rent—more than are now enjoyed. As to the objection that the section cannot be worked, I think Hon'ble Members having experience in the mufassal will admit that the prevailing rate can be ascertained in some localities, and the section tends to facilitate the ascertainment of it. It is not intended that this section shall apply indiscriminately to all parts of the country. It is not proposed to extend it to districts or parts of districts where rents are already sufficiently high. It is only intended for districts where rents are unduly low and zamindars are not able to obtain fair and just rents. In parts of the country to which the section is not extended the law will remain as it is, and the interpretations which the Civil Courts have put on the existing law as to what is a prevailing rate will not be affected by this section. Unless the Council hold that it is not desirable to give any facilities for the enhancement of rent, I submit this section ought to be passed."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"As I said before, this question of the prevailing rate has always appeared to me an extremely difficult one, and this section is an attempt to find a workable basis for it as a ground of enhancement, and it has been strongly supported by many very experienced Revenue Officers, and also by Sir Charles Elliott, who was an experienced Settlement Officer himself. But I was myself so uncertain as to the possible result of it, especially in Bihar, that I thought it desirable to safeguard it by a proviso and also by the addition of the section which follows, namely, that when once the prevailing rate has been ascertained in this way rent shall not be enhanced again except on the ground of a rise in prices. With these safeguards I think the section will be safe. At any rate certain very experienced officers have said that they think it may be safely introduced and worked, and I have no doubt the Government of Bengal will make careful enquiries before introducing it into any district, and that it will be worked with caution; but that it is workable I am convinced."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE moved that for the words "the highest of such rates at which and at rates higher than which the larger portion of these lands is held may be taken to be the prevailing rate" in sub-section (1) of section 31A in section 4 of the Bill, the words "the rate paid by a majority of the raiyats for such lands in the village may be taken to be the prevailing rate" be substituted. He said:—

"It is not disputed that by 'prevailing rate' in section 2 is meant the rate paid by a majority of the raiyats for such lands in the village. It has to be

seen whether it is necessary to introduce a definition of 'prevailing rate' other than that which is understood to be the definition of 'prevailing rate' as used in section 2. In going over these papers I was somewhat struck with the fact that there was almost a consensus of opinion as to the obscurity of the proposed definition. One Judicial Officer goes the length of saying that 'it certainly makes a British-born subject pause a little when he reads this section'; others characterise it as, 'ungrammatical.' Others again, including the Board of Revenue, are of opinion that the introduction of this section would be misleading, because there is no definition in the Act of 'prevailing rate' as used in section 2; the safeguard in the opening words of the section notwithstanding. In the absence, therefore, of a definition of 'prevailing rate' in section 2 this section is misleading. Then again this is a definition which must lead to rack-renting; it will raise the rent to the highest rate possible in the circumstances. Further the definition will be unworkable on another ground, a ground to which I had the honour of referring when the Bill was referred to a Select Committee, namely, that under this definition raiyats will be expected, while giving their evidence, to be able to state the areas of their holdings. It is pointed out by one of the Judicial Officers that it is not to be expected that they should be able, while stating what rates they paid, also to state the areas of their holdings. Consequently it would be very difficult to come to a finding as to what the prevailing rate should be taken to be according to this definition."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I oppose this motion, the effect of which would simply be to omit the section altogether. I have already pointed out that in districts or parts of districts to which this section is not extended the definition of 'prevailing rate' remains as it is under the existing law."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"I am surprised that a legal gentleman of the eminence of the Hon'ble Member should have put forward the fallacy with which he started. It is the zamindar who is required to prove his case. The raiyat is not called upon to state the area of his holding. When Hon'ble Members were discussing the question of the prevailing rate, it was urged that the area would be taken into consideration and not the number of persons who pay that rate. If the zamindar is the unscrupulous man he is made out to be, he would have less difficulty in manufacturing a majority of raiyats by splitting up tenancies than in showing that higher rates are paid over a larger area."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE, by leave of the Council, withdrew the following motions of which he had given notice:—

- (1) That the words "In any district or part of a district to which this sub-section is extended by the Local Government by notification in the Calcutta Gazette in sub-section (1) of section 31A in section 4 of the Bill, be omitted.
- (2) That the Illustrations be omitted from sub-section (1) of section 31A in section 4 of the Bill.
- (3) That sub-section (2) of section 31A in section 4 of the Bill be omitted.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE moved that for section 5 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:—

"5. After the word 'correct' in sub-section (6) of section 39 of the said Act, the words 'and may presume that the prices shown in the lists prepared for any year prior to the passing of this Act are correct' shall be inserted."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE, by leave of the Council, withdrew the motion of which he had given notice that section 5 of the Bill be omitted.

The Hon'ble BABU SALIGRAM SINGH moved that the words "or at any lower rate that may appear to the Court to be fair and equitable" be omitted from section 6 of the Bill.

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said :—" If the land cannot be identified, then the average rate is applied. If on the other hand it can be identified, then it is rated according to its class. It is not logical to say that for land which cannot be identified the average rate 'or any lower rate that may appear to the Court to be fair and equitable' may be taken, and therefore those words should be omitted."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU SALIGRAM SINGH, by leave of the Council, withdrew the motion of which he had given notice that for the words " lower rate " in section 6 of the Bill, the words " other rate " be substituted.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE moved that the following be inserted at the end of section 6 of the Bill, namely:—

“(6) Provided that no tenant who holds under a lease with defined boundaries shall be liable to pay enhanced rent in respect of any excess area found to be within the boundaries stated in the lease.”

He said:—" Clause 6, which it is proposed to insert, has raised a question in the minds of some of the Judicial Officers. The Additional Judge of the 24-Parganas says:—" Would this apply to a village with defined boundaries and a descriptive specification of area ? " Even the Board of Revenue say:—" It does not appear to the Board clear whether this new sub-section is intended to apply both when [the holding in which there are excess lands is held at a lump rent and with specified boundaries, and when it is held at specific rates without boundaries. The old rulings are that if land is settled at a lump sum with definite boundaries, it is not enough in order to prove a demand of higher rent to show that the nominal area of the land has been found greater than it was originally recorded. Boundaries prevail against record of nominal area.' Thus the Board of Revenue are in doubt whether the sub-section is meant to modify the law as laid down by the High Court."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said :—" I think every Lawyer will hold that we do not modify the ruling of the High Court. We have no intention of altering the law in that respect and the ruling of the High Court."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE said :—" A doubt has been raised, and I therefore proposed this amendment. I beg leave to withdraw it."

The Motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN, by leave of the Council, withdrew the motion of which he had given notice that for the words " one or more of the boundaries " in clause (c) of section 102 in section 7 of the Bill, the words " all the boundaries " be substituted.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE moved that the procedure for settlement of rents and decision of disputes in estates under settlement of land-revenue be the same as the procedure for settlement of rents and decision of disputes in permanently-settled estates.

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said :—" I must rule this motion out of order. It is not an amendment of the Bill. It is a sort of omnibus clause which would require a long series of amendments to give effect to it. The point should have been raised at the time when the Bill was referred to a Select Committee."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE moved that the words " either orally or " be omitted from clause (b) of section 104A in section 7 of the Bill.

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said :—" The rules will necessarily lay down that oral admissions will have to be read over to the tenants and attested by the Settlement Officer. If you leave in 'in writing' only it might raise a difficulty."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I would not object to the omission of the words 'either orally or in writing,' and say simply 'accepted.'"

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL said:—"I do not think it is necessary. If a raiyat makes an oral statement, that is all he can do. If there is any chance of fraud in that, there is equally a chance of fraud in bringing another man to sign for him."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"I think we better be guided by the advice of the learned Advocate-General and leave the section as drafted."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN moved that clause (c) of section 104A in section 7 of the Bill be omitted.

He said:—"The table of rates is practically based on competition rent. This section leaves the settlement of rates entirely to the Settlement Officers estimate of what is fairly and equitably payable by raiyats or tenure-holders. Had the table been based solely on existing rents, there would have been very little ground of complaint. As the section is now worded, the assessment of rents is left absolutely to the discretion of the Settlement Officer. If the largeness of area of a particular settlement, such as Orissa, be in view, the Resolution of the Government of India of the 1st August, 1882, is a sufficient answer to the demand of the Government in this Bill for the table. The table was proposed as early then, but it was abandoned. The Rent Commission, appointed in 1884, also made the same proposal, but it was again abandoned. I fail to see why the Government should now ask the Council to adopt it, and I therefore move that the clause be omitted."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I oppose this motion. Clause (c) of section 104 begins thus: 'If the circumstances are in the opinion of the Revenue Officer such as to make it practicable to prepare a table of rates'; therefore if the circumstances are such as not to make it practicable, a table of rates will not be prepared. Having given many years to the study of this question in almost every district in Bengal, I am confident that in some cases the preparation of a table of rates is practicable, and where it is practicable there is no reason why such a table should not be prepared. The hon'ble mover of the amendment says that the preparation of a table of rates will leave raiyats to the tender mercies of the Revenue Officer, and that no principle has been laid down for his guidance. I would refer him to section 104D, under which, in preparing a table of rates, the Settlement Officer is bound to have regard to the general principles laid down in the Act regulating the enhancement or reduction of rent; so that he is tied down by the general principles of the Act. As the learned Advocate-General has pointed out, the Revenue Officer will have to justify any table he may prepare to the Confirming and Appellate authorities. He can only justify it by showing that his enhancements were made on the grounds of enhancement prescribed by the Act."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE moved that the following be added to clause (c) of section 104A in section 7 of the Bill, namely:—

"Provided that any enhancement of rent involved in such a table of rates shall be conditioned by the grounds of enhancement specified in section 30."

He said:—"Section 104A has four clauses which are distinct and which lay down four different methods for the settlement of rents. It has been pointed out to me that there is a proviso in clause (d), namely, that in making any settlement regard shall be had to the principles laid down in certain sections of the Act; and that in section 104D it is provided that in framing a table of rates under

section 104B and in settling rents under section 104C, the Revenue Officer shall be guided by such instructions as the Local Government may issue in this behalf, and shall, so far as may be, and subject to the proviso to the said section 104C, have regard to the general principles of this Act regulating the enhancement or reduction of rent. The words 'so far as may be,' modify the proviso, with the effect that in preparing a table of rates, Settlement Officers will not be bound to stand by the principles laid down in the Act on the subject. In the second place, the words 'shall have regard to,' mean 'may take into consideration;' so that these words also do not bind Settlement Officers to follow the principles of the Act. That is why I think something more explicit is needed if the intention is that the Settlement Officer shall be guided and governed by the principles laid down in the Act. It is because the provisos do not go far enough that I move this amendment."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I think sections 104C and 104D sufficiently meet the case. It is not necessary that in settling each particular individual tenant's rent the Settlement Officer should be tied down by the table of rates. If he thinks that the rates given in the table should not be applied in settling any particular raiyat's rent, he is not bound to apply them; therefore the section is made a little more elastic than the Hon'ble Member would have it, and as there is an appeal to the Superior Revenue authorities, it is very unlikely that injustice will be done either by framing rates which are not justified by the principles prescribed in the Act, or by the rigid application of them in settling individual tenant's rents."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"I think the thing cuts both ways. The Settlement Officer has to find rates which are fair and equitable. It is a matter of judgment, and we say that in forming your judgment you must conform to certain rules and certain principles. Those who have to control settlement work know very well that it must be to a large extent a matter of discretion, based on certain principles of course. Their object is to find rates which are fair and equitable to both sides."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE also moved that for the words "such instructions as the Local Government may issue in this behalf" in section 104D, in section 7 of the Bill, the words "such rules as the Local Government may make in this behalf" be substituted.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE moved that the words "and shall cause it to be finally published in the prescribed manner and for the prescribed period" be omitted from sub-section (3) of section 104F in section 7 of the Bill. He said:—

"The Hon'ble Babu Norendra Nath Sen will remember that when we discussed this in Select Committee, we came to the conclusion that the Settlement Rent Roll should be incorporated with the record-of-rights, but by a slip of the pen these words were left in this sub-section."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN moved that "twelve months" be substituted for "six months" in both places in which those words occur in sub-section (2) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill.

He said:—"In support of this amendment, it is necessary to see what the present law is. Article 14 of the second schedule of the Limitation Act prescribes a limitation of one year for suits to set aside an act or order of an officer of Government, and by Article 45 of the same schedule of the same Act, the three years' rule has been prescribed for suits to set aside awards under Regulation VII of 1822. As far as the Government as landlord is concerned, awards under Regulation VII of 1822 are similar to those under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Under the old law it was not even necessary for persons to bring suits to

set aside awards if they were in possession. They have all a limitation of twelve years from the date they were dispossessed of. That being the state of the law, I submit that a limitation of six months in this section is too short, and I have proposed the moderate course of substituting twelve months for six. It must be remembered that in cases where the Government is a party, either as landlord or tenant, two months' clear notice has to be given under section 424 of the Civil Procedure Code. Practically, therefore, in cases where the Government is a party, the party injuriously affected has only left three months or a little over three months; for some time must be taken after the termination of the notice to file a suit. The difficulties in filing a suit are great. It is necessary to collect materials and to seek legal advice. It may be urged on the other side that proceedings under the Tenancy Act should be concluded in as short a period as possible; it has therefore perhaps been thought necessary to provide a six months' limitation. Under the existing law there is practically no limitation. [The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"What was the limitation under Act VIII of 1879?"] I will contend that it was three years. [The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"It was four months under that Act: we are giving two months more."] In fact under the Act of 1879 no suit was necessary sometimes, because all these entries might be contested when a suit is brought against a party, and he is not required to bring a separate suit. If any suit is brought against a tenant for rent on the strength of the record, he could even then contest the correctness of the entry, and no suit was necessary to be brought."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"Perhaps I may explain the meaning of this section. The Hon'ble Member has been talking as if this section related to suits in general, whereas it simply relates to cases in which any person is aggrieved by an entry of rent settled in settlement record. It only applies to entries of rents settled in a Settlement Rent Roll, and when any person objects to such entry, he must bring a suit within six months. Under Act VIII of 1879, the *jammabundee* was published, and within four months after that publication suits to set aside settlements had to be brought. The period now proposed is longer than that allowed under Act VIII of 1879. The section leaves the law of limitation in suits regarding right and title exactly as it stood before."

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHUN SEN continued:—"Act VIII of 1879 was repealed. My contention is that the time is too short. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill observed that settlement proceedings should be settled as soon as possible, but that may be done by securing an order to dispose of cases of this kind within six months, just as rent cases are disposed of within that period. In this connection the opinions of distinguished gentlemen have been given, and one of the District Judges, Mr. Gordon said—"

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"It is simply a question of opinion whether a limitation of six months or of twelve months should be prescribed."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN also moved that the words "or additional rent" be added at the end of clause (a) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill.

He said:—"As at present drafted, this section may be confined only to those cases where the parties held rent-free or revenue-free tenures. I do not think it was intended to limit the scope of this section in that manner. I therefore suggest that the scope of this section be widened by adding the words I have proposed. In that case a suit may be brought by a party where additional rent has been fixed on his tenure or holding, when as a matter of fact no additional rent is chargeable. The principle has been recognised in this very section, because the incidents of the tenure have to be noted, and where the incidents of a tenure or holding have to be noted, it is but fair that the parties should also have the right to sue against an additional rent being fixed on their holdings if additional rent has been fixed against any recognized law or principle."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I oppose the amendment, but I am not certain whether I understand the meaning of it, if it has any meaning at all. If the Hon'ble Member means that the tenant may sue on the ground that the Revenue Officer has settled a rent in excess of that previously payable and that the land is not chargeable with additional rent, that it is in fact held at a fixed rent, that only means that the tenancy has been recorded in a wrong class for which the section provides a remedy. If on the other hand he means that the party aggrieved should be allowed to sue whenever the rent settled is in excess of the existing rent, whether the status of the tenant has been rightly recorded or not, then his amendment goes against the whole principle of the Bill. If the tenant is recorded in a wrong class, he may sue on that ground. If the record says that he is an occupancy tenant and he claims to be a tenant at a fixed rate of rent, he can sue. But he is not entitled to sue in the Civil Court merely on the ground that the rent settled is too high."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"We allow an appeal to the Civil Court to discuss the question of status, which is outside the fiscal question of rent. If the words 'or additional rent' be added, the whole question of enhancement of rent comes in, and that is quite contrary to the principle of this Bill."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN moved that after clause (g) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill the following be added, namely—

"(h) that the alteration made in the existing rent by the Revenue Officer has not been made in accordance with, or is not justified by, the provisions of this Act regulating such alterations."

He said:—"The only question of most vital importance to a tenant is the rent which he has to pay; and when his rent has been enhanced, and he is not permitted to contest its justice or legality by a regular suit, it would seem idle to confer upon him the privilege of bringing suits in matters of far less importance to him. Looking at the wording in the beginning of section 104H—'any person aggrieved by an entry of a rent settled in a settlement rent roll,' and also to the words in sub-section (4)—the Court may 'settle a fair rent,' and also to the words in sub-section (6)—'the Court shall be guided by the rents of the other tenures or holdings of the same class,' it is clear the Legislature intended that the raiyat should be allowed to contest the legality of the enhancement in Court. If it were not so, the words at the beginning of the section would be meaningless, and the provision that 'in any other case,' i.e., under clauses c, d, e and f, the Court 'shall settle a fair rent' becomes still more unmeaning, because under neither of these clauses rent is contested and the Court is not required to settle rents. For clause (c) relates to the question whether a tenancy exists, (d) whether the land has been wrongly excluded or included, (e) that the class to which the tenant belongs is wrongly stated, and (f) that the date from which the settlement is to take effect is wrong. If enhancement of rent is not allowed to be contested under this section, then all these provisions, I submit, become perfectly unnecessary. I earnestly appeal to your sense of fairness and justice, Sir, to make this all-important concession in favour of the raiyat. It will be the only possible remedy open to him against much unintentional hardship which the extensive and extraordinary powers, conferred by this Bill on Settlement Officers, might cause."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said:—"The amendment which stands next in the agenda in my name is practically the same as the above, though the wording is somewhat different, namely, that after the said clause (g) the following be added:—

"(h) that the enhancement of rent is not justifiable under the provisions of this Act."

"As has just been observed by my hon'ble friend, this amendment raises a vital question of principle. Under section 104H any person aggrieved by

an entry in the record-of-rights is given the power of instituting a civil suit on certain grounds specified in that section. I propose and my hon'ble friend proposes that an additional ground should be included among those which are not covered by the grounds given in the section. The question of enhancement of rents is a vital question to the raiyat, and it does seem to me that in a matter of this great importance, a raiyat should have the opportunity of contesting the decision of the Revenue Officers by filing a suit in the Civil Court. The Hon'ble Mr. Finucane in introducing this Bill made certain observations which encourage me to appeal to him with some confidence. He then said :—'The people of Bengal are rightly zealous of any interference with the powers of the Civil Courts, and that it is to the reign of law impartially administered that they owe the maintenance of their civil rights.'

"And it is because we are anxious about that this reign of law should be maintained unimpaired that we appeal to the hon'ble member with confidence to accept an amendment which will give the raiyat the right to appeal to law when his rent has been enhanced. Having regard to the well-known sympathy of the Government with the raiyat and to the expression of opinion of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill which I have quoted, I hope your Honour and the Council will see their way to accept this amendment."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said :—"I regret it is wholly impossible for me to accept these amendments. They are directly contrary to the principle of the Bill as regards the settlement of rents in Government estates. The principle is that the Revenue authorities are the best judges of economic facts, that is to say, of rents and the rates of rent to be fixed for lands of particular classes. But as the Revenue authorities may go wrong on questions of law, it has been provided that if they do, there is a remedy in the Civil Courts; and if an error in law leads to errors in the settlement of rents, then it is also provided that the Civil Court shall settle the rent on the same principle as the Revenue Officer has settled them in similar cases. The principle is that the Revenue Officers are the final authorities to settle what a fair rent should be. To accept the principle contained in the amendment would be tantamount to upsetting the whole principle of the Bill. It would be tantamount to saying that after the Revenue authorities have decided what the fair rent should be, then the raiyat may go to the Munsif's Court and ask the Munsif to fix the rent *de novo*. That, I submit, is preposterous. I adhere to what I said in introducing this Bill about the reign of law, but I also enunciated this principle that there are matters which involve economic questions as to which the Revenue authorities are the best persons to decide, but they too will decide according to law."

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL said :—"I also oppose this amendment, which I consider to be in direct contravention of the principle upon which this Bill is based. I regret that I have had to observe in this Council, not on one occasion, but on many occasions, a desire on the part of certain Hon'ble Members to put the hands of the clock back, and they will persevere although the Council has said 'No,' and I venture to believe that if this motion is negatived, some other proposals will be made exactly in the same way against the principle of this Bill. I submit that this mode of proceeding is very much to be deprecated, and I think the intelligent gentlemen whom I see before me will see that they are simply retarding business by asking the Council to go back to a state of things which has long since been left behind."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said :—"I must be permitted to reply to the personal attack which the Hon'ble Member has just made upon me and my colleagues."

The Hon'ble The PRESIDENT said :—"I cannot allow personal matters to be discussed, and I must, in all fairness, say this, that though the ordinary rule of the Council is that the principles of a Bill are settled at the debate when the Bill is referred to a Select Committee, in this particular case the Bill which was referred to a Select Committee was the Bill as it was introduced. But I then made an oral statement that I should propose to the Select Committee to

modify the Bill in certain particulars. That modification was not actually before the Council at the time, and therefore I cannot say that the observations which have been laid before us are out of order; because the reference to the Select Committee was an open order to adopt the modification of the Bill which would be proposed by Government. It might therefore be said that the Hon'ble Members who have moved the amendments now before the Council had no opportunity before of stating their views on the Bill as ultimately shaped by Government, and I cannot say that they are out of order, as they would have been had they had the opportunity before. Coming to the point in the Bill now under discussion, I say that we have maintained the reign of law over a great portion of Bengal. We have retained the provisions of the Tenancy Act with regard to permanently-settled estates, but even in that law it is acknowledged by the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane, and by every authority on the subject, with a few exceptions, that the Revenue Officers are the best authorities to deal with fiscal questions, such as the fixing of rents. In the Act an appeal was given to a Special Judge, but it was distinctly said that the special officer so appointed need not be the Civil Court. It was open to the Government to appoint a Commissioner of Division or any high authority not under the Civil Courts to be the Special Judge. There was nothing in the law to compel the Government to appoint a Judicial Officer. And the general admission has all along been that for the purpose of settling fiscal matters, such as the rates of rent, the Revenue Officers are the best authorities. In respect of all permanently-settled estates we proposed to bring the whole procedure in connection with rent under the Revenue authorities, as it is in every other Province in India, and as it used to be in Bengal itself, our proposal did not find acceptance with Judicial Officers and zamindars generally. The fact that Revenue Officers are well qualified to judge in such matters has, however, been shown by the fact that the British Indian Association, who at first opposed the proposal to give jurisdiction to Revenue Officers, have actually moved the Council to compel Munsifs to refer all questions relating to rents to Revenue Officers, and to be guided by the decisions of such officers. The Select Committee have, however, not seen their way to give effect to that proposal, and I am not prepared to propose it. I think the zamindars on their part have made a mistake, but the Council have accepted the principle of keeping the Special Judge in respect of permanently-settled estates. But in respect of Government estates we maintain the principle that the Revenue authorities are the parties to settle all questions of rent. As I said at starting, had we strictly adhered to the principle of the Bill as it was referred to the Select Committee and not altered it to the lines on which it stands now, the Hon'ble Members who move this amendment would have been out of order, but as matters stand now, I cannot say that they are out of order."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE, by leave of the Council, withdrew the Motion of which he had given notice that after clause (g) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill, the following be added, namely:—

"(h) that the enhancement of rent is not justifiable under the provisions of this Act."

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN moved that after clause (g) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill, the following be added, namely—

"(h) that the settlement of rent has been made against the terms of a contract, express or implied, or other incidents, binding upon the parties."

He said:—"Practically a concession has been made to parties injuriously affected to bring suits to establish that the incidents of their tenancy or holding have been wrongly recorded or have been omitted altogether. My amendment purports to give the right of suit to contest rents settled against the terms of a contract or against the incidents of their tenures or holdings. The amendment will have the effect of making the section more exhaustive. The right does not seem to have been taken away, but the object of the amendment is to make it more clear."

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUCANE said:—"The hon'ble mover of the amendment does not seem to have examined section 110 (b), which provides that 'if the existing rent has been fixed by a contract binding between the parties for an unexpired term of years, the rent settled shall take effect from the expiration of that term.'"

The Motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUCANE moved that the following be inserted at the end of sub-section (3) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill, namely:—

"The Secretary of State for India in Council shall not be made a defendant in any such suit unless the Government is landlord or tenant of the land to which the aforesaid entry relates or in respect of which the aforesaid omission was made."

He said:—"The section here referred to is the section we have been discussing regarding the right of any person to sue who is aggrieved at the entry of the rent settled in a settlement rent-roll. I should have thought it obvious that if the tenant is aggrieved, he should sue the landlord, or if the landlord is aggrieved, he should sue the tenant; but the obvious meaning of the section has been taken to be not the true meaning, and therefore I want to make it clear. It has been suggested that the Government should be sued, as the Government is responsible for the acts of the Revenue Officers. I move for the insertion of these words to make it clear that the Revenue Officer or Government is not to be sued in such cases except where Government is directly interested as landlord or tenant; it would be just as reasonable to sue a Judge or Government whenever a Judge gives an erroneous decision in a case in which Government has no immediate interest."

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL said:—"There is a notion prevailing that the Government is liable for the wrongful acts of their servants but Sir Richard Garth ruled that the Government is not liable. I quite agree with the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill that there is a tendency to bring in the Government whenever it can be done, and in order to avoid that I think this is a very proper amendment."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN moved that sub-section (6) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill be omitted.

He said:—"This section is not at all necessary. It provides that 'in settling a fair rent under sub-section (4), the Court shall be guided by the rents of the other tenures or holdings of the same class comprised in the same settlement rent-roll, as settled under sections 104A to 104F.' It may so happen that in one village there may be many tenants of the same class, but very few of them may choose to bring suits in the Civil Courts to maintain their position against the settlement authorities. If their rents are to be settled on a comparison with the rents of other persons who hold similar lands, but do not choose to bring suits, the decree of the Civil Court will be nullified. As ample power has been given to the Court to settle fair rents under sub-section (4), I do not think this sub-section is at all necessary. [The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"You are aware that it is the existing law under section 108 of the Tenancy Act: it is simply reproducing the words of that section."] No doubt it is so, but in that case the Courts have ample discretion. But here the Courts are confined to the particular rate fixed by the Settlement Officer, and for aught we know other tenants may not care to bring suits to establish their position. Sub-section (4), I submit, is quite enough for the purpose and sub-section (6) is not at all necessary, if the Courts are guided by just principle and by the provisions of this Act. If, on the other hand, they are to be guided simply by the rent-roll of tenants of the same class, many of whom may not appear to contest the rent therein fixed, it would rather be hard upon those who do bring suits."

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUCANE said:—"I oppose this amendment. As the Hon'ble the President has already pointed out, this provision only reproduces the present law."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN also moved that for the word "deemed" in section 104J in section 7 of the Bill, the words "presumed until the contrary is proved" be substituted.

He said:—"To settle matters of this kind, section 103B provides that a certificate signed by the Revenue Officer stating that a record-of-rights has been finally published shall be conclusive evidence of such publication; and every entry in a record-of-rights so published shall be presumed to be correct until the contrary is proved. I submit that section 104J should be worded on the same lines as section 103B, and therefore I move this amendment."

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL said:—"The Hon'ble Mover of the amendment wants, after it is finally settled what is a fair and equitable rent, to go back and say it shall be presumed to be correct until the contrary is proved."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN also moved that for the word "deemed" in section 8 of the Bill, the words "presumed until the contrary is proved" be substituted.

He said:—"Section 8 refers to a past record. It provides that all records published under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, before the amendment of this Act, whether in draft or in final form, shall be deemed to have been duly published. As we are going to give retrospective effect to past proceedings, we must look to the state of the law at the time, and to the impression of the people as to the law they are under. As far as the district of Chittagong is concerned, the people are under the impression that it was not necessary for them to contest the proceedings of the revenue officers. They preferred to have their rights settled in the Civil Court, and with that idea they have not contested any of the decisions or settlement of rents before the Settlement Officers. Therefore, if this section is passed, it will operate great hardship upon the people."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"Section 8 only reproduces the wording of section 105 (2) of the present Act, which provides that the publication of records shall be conclusive evidence that the record has been duly made. It is no new principle, and therefore I oppose this amendment."

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN said:—"Under section 109 of the same Act, all undisputed entries can be disputed in the Civil Courts."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"It would be very convenient if Hon'ble Members who have just joined the Council would place themselves in communication with the Hon'ble Member in charge of a Bill so as to ascertain the meaning and intention of the Bill before proposing amendments that are futile and worthless."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN moved that section 9 of the Bill be omitted.

He said:—"This section seems to me to be obviously inequitable. It proposes to give retrospective effect to the present Bill, which has been protested against by all Judicial Officers. Under the rulings of the High Court, the Settlement Officers' decisions were not conclusive, and, therefore, most people did not appeal. To make these decisions final and conclusive now would be to take away the existing rights of the parties without any reason whatever."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said:—"The same Motion stands in my name. It is a question of principle that I desire the Council to consider. Before this Bill is passed into law, certain rights will have accrued to the parties concerned, and these rights, it is now proposed to take away by the Bill giving retrospective effect to settlements made before the commencement

of this Act. That seems to me to be wrong in principle. This is *the one* section of the Bill which has been condemned by the *Englishman* newspaper while accord- ing a general support to the provisions of the Bill. The reasons are not stated, but this is the one blot which the *Englishman* lays its fingers upon, and I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill will not mar the character of his Bill by introducing a principle of this kind."

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUOANE said:—"I regret I cannot accept this amend- ment. All the section does is to declare that every settlement of rent in respect of which an appeal has not been preferred shall be held to be final and correct. That is the existing law. When there is no dispute there is no decision and no decree. But where there has been a dispute, the Revenue Officer is bound to treat the dispute as a civil suit and to decide it, and when he has done so and given his decision; my hon'ble friend says if that decision is accepted by the parties and is not appealed against, it is not to be final, but if it has been appealed against, it may be taken as final. In other words, decisions that have been accepted by the parties are to have no finality. I do not see the slightest danger of any injustice arising from this section. It is only decisions that are made final. More undisputed entries have only presumptive value of correctness attached to them under this Bill, just as they had under Chapter X of the Tenancy Act."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"There can be no possible doubt to any one who has studied the proceedings in connection with the passing of the Tenancy Act, that it was the intention of the framers of that Act, that the proceedings of the Revenue Officers and of the Special Judge should be final. Possibly the idea got abroad that these proceedings were not *res judicata*, but the tendency of the more recent decisions is to the effect that they are; and I am certainly of opinion that if they are not, they ought to be declared to have that effect, and that we ought not to stimulate a crop of litigation, which might be very agreeable to gentlemen of the legal profession but to nobody else. This is an equitable provision in the Bill, and the Government have no intention to withdraw from it."

The Motions were put and negatived.

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN moved that at the end of sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Bill, the following be added, namely:—

"Provided also that a suit may, within three years from the commencement of this Act, be instituted in a competent Civil Court to contest the correctness of any settlement of rent made in an uncontested case, or the correctness of any decision of a dispute."

He said:—"In considering this amendment let us see what rights have been conferred upon the people with regard to future settlements. Section 104H, clause (c) gives certain rights to parties to sue in the Civil Court. Under the present Act no such suit is necessary, and people were under the impression that they had a right to institute a suit in the Civil Court to contest entries whenever a suit is brought against them. It is just that some time should be given to the parties, when retrospective effect is going to be given to past records, to contest their rents in the Civil Court. I have suggested three years, because the people of my part of the country have suffered lately from the effects of a cyclone and also from scarcity. If three years be given to contest an award under settlement proceedings, no hardship will accrue. But when retros- pective effect is going to be given to past records, the justice of the case requires that some such time should be given to parties to have the records corrected. The people are strongly of opinion that their rights are not affected by the settlement records, and cannot be better expressed than in the words of Mr. Pargier, who says that the people, rightly or wrongly, regulated their conduct in the belief that they had a right to bring a civil suit, and they did not think it worth while to contest these matters before the Revenue Officers. The Rulings of the High Court have been to the effect that Settlement Officers have no power to decide disputes between landlords and landlords or be- tween tenants and tenants; nor have they power to fix the rent of a tenure or

holding which the tenant claims to hold rent free. The recent ruling of the High Court to which reference was made by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, did not declare that the decisions of Revenue Officers operate as *res adjudicata*. The questions before the Judges in those cases, there were several cases—were whether the Special Judge had power to review his own judgment, and whether an appeal lay to the High Court on questions of rent. In deciding those cases, one of the Judges held that the power of review was inherent in Judges, and he also held that the review sections of the Civil Procedure Code applied to cases tried by Settlement Officers and the Special Judge. The main question has not been touched in those cases, and the previous judgments were not reversed. That being the impression of the people, when retrospective effect is going to be given to past records, I submit that some time should be given to the parties interested to contest the entries in the records in the Civil Courts."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"This amendment is opposed to the conclusion just come to on the previous amendments, that settlement of rents and decisions by Revenue Officers are final. It is proposed by this amendment to give a period of three years to contest them."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"Whatever the impression of the people might have been, the fact remains that in Chittagong the rents fixed were so moderate that they have not only been accepted, but they have been paid, and I think the people will be very unwilling to waste their money, trying to upset the decisions now, after they have accepted them and have paid their rents, notwithstanding that the lawyers may incite them to the contrary."

The Motion was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE moved that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed. He said:—

"I shall be very brief. I desire to explain that when I spoke of the Government of Bengal having been accused of being too much in favour of the raiyats, I had not in my mind anything said by Hon'ble Members but what has been said outside. I do not complain of the time which has been taken up by the hon'ble movers of the amendments in the discussion which has taken place. The time which has been occupied in this discussion is only 2 hours and 10 minutes, and I cannot consider that unreasonable, nor can I complain of the Hon'ble Member from Chittagong trying to effect something which he conceived to be favourable to the people of that district. In proposing that the Bill be now passed, I will only express the hope that the Bill will effect the objects for which it was introduced, namely, that it will afford reasonable facilities for the enhancement of rents where rents ought to be enhanced, without at the same time unjustly affecting the interests of raiyats or endangering them. I hope also that the Bill will clear up doubts and difficulties which have arisen in the working of the present Act. And above all I hope that the Bill as now amended will continue to be the law of landlord and tenant in Bengal for at least a generation, and that there will be no unsettling of the law or interference with it for many years to come. The principles on which settlements of rents are to be made under this Bill are eclectic and elastic, and I hope one or other of them will suit the varying conditions of things in the different parts of this vast Province, and that the Bill will in the course of time be found in its operation to be fair and just alike to landlords and tenants and to Government."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—"I congratulate the Council and the Hon'ble Member who has been in charge of this Bill that it has at last reached the final stage, and I hope that it will prove satisfactory in its working. It

consists really of three parts, as it were: The first part contains certain amendments of the substantive law of rent, the second enacts certain amendments of the law of the settlement of rents in permanently-settled estates, and the third part contains provisions, which I hope will prove effective, for a complete and sound settlement law for temporarily-settled estates and Government estates and such estates as may, under the provisions of the law, have that part of the Bill extended to them throughout Bengal. The amendments in the substantive provisions of the law of rents are, it has been said, favourable to zamindars. I am not much concerned to deny that, but I believe that the concessions which have been made are reasonable and just, certainly not extravagant, and merely such modifications as are required to give effect to the intention of the Legislature in 1885. I have throughout my official life fought many battles for the raiyats, but I have always endeavoured to maintain an open mind as to the merits of the rent controversy on both sides, and it is a satisfaction to me that I have been able to see my way to support amendments of the substantive law in the direction which they have taken in this Bill. It is a matter of special satisfaction that we have at last succeeded in giving Bengal a proper law of revenue and rent settlement. The old settlement procedure under the Regulation of 1822 was undoubtedly good enough, and many good settlements, both of revenue and of rent, were carried out under those provisions, and the discretion of the Revenue Officers was then unfettered by positive enactment. When the Rent Law, X of 1859, was passed, it was declared to apply to the proceedings of Settlement Officers. I will not go through the whole history of the course of legislation, as I think it was given at very considerable length in the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane's opening speech when introducing the Bill and in the papers connected with the Bill. But there can be no doubt whatever, and it has been held in this Council repeatedly within the last twenty years, that it is a crying want in Bengal that we should have a proper law of settlement. The Legislature in 1885 sought to effect it by placing the Government and the zamindars on the same platform and providing for the appointment of Special Judges, intending, as I said this morning, that the proceedings of such officers in dealing with rent questions should be final. Unfortunately this intention was frustrated in some parts of the country by both raiyats and tenure-holders being advised to keep away from the Settlement Officers and to take their chance in the Civil Courts. As I have already remarked, I see very little prospect of their following the very bad advice they are receiving; for in Chittagong the rents of tenure-holders are being paid without the slightest difficulty or objection, and the same is the case also in Orissa, I am happy to state, where the settlement is proceeding through its stages in a remarkably satisfactory manner, and the proposals of the Revenue Officers are being accepted by the people. The Government is always moderate in its settlement of revenue, but in a settlement which is being effected after 60 years, it must be expected that something will be taken out of the pockets of the zamindars; but I hope it will be in a large measure made up to them by a moderate enhancement of rents, and in a very short time by the growth and development of the country and by the opening out of new railways. The settlement of Orissa will be for a term of thirty years, and it is hoped that circumstances will during that period so considerably improve as to take away almost all the sting of bitterness out of the enhancement of revenue which the Government has had to lay upon the landholders. In the third part of the Bill relating to permanently-settled estates, the Government has endeavoured and the Select Committee have endeavoured to make the procedure more simple and cheap, and to remove all difficulties of construction of sections which have arisen since the passing of the Act of 1885. I congratulate the Council and myself on the passing of this Bill."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1898-99.

The Hon'ble Mr. RISLEY laid on the table the Financial Statement for 1898-99, with explanatory notes.

BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1898-99.

PART I.—General Review.

(1) ACCOUNTS OF 1896-97.

In the Financial Statement which was laid before the Council on the 27th March 1897, it was assumed that the year 1896-97 had opened with a credit balance of Rs. 58,20,000, and had closed with a balance of Rs. 41,07,000, that the total amount available for expenditure during the year was Rs. 5,22,01,000, and that of this sum Rs. 4,80,94,000 had been spent. The actual result proves to have been worse than this estimate by Rs. 1,52,581. The amount actually available for expenditure was Rs. 5,26,72,062, but the amount actually expended during the year amounted to Rs. 4,87,17,567, thus leaving a closing balance of Rs. 39,54,495, against Rs. 41,07,000, anticipated in March 1897. This reduction is chiefly due to excess expenditure under Famine Relief and to the grant of grain compensation allowance to certain Government servants on low pay.

2. There was an increase of 4½ lakhs on the receipt side, of which Rs. 2,36,000 were under "Irrigation and Navigation," due to (1) enhanced receipts under water-rates owing to the great demand for canal water caused by the failure of rainfall, (2) better collections arising from the high prices obtained by the cultivators, (3) the realization of arrear demands on the Orissa and Sone Canals, and (4) larger receipts from transport of rice. There was also an increase of Rs. 1,12,000 under Stamps owing to the execution of a large number of mortgages and deeds of sale in consequence of the prevailing scarcity and failure of crops; and of Rs. 82,000 under Jails due to larger sales of manufactures to the Military Department.

3. The increase of expenditure was chiefly under the heads of Land Revenue (Rs. 50,000), Law and Justice—Courts of Law (Rs. 64,000), Jails (Rs. 1,22,000), Police (Rs. 1,09,000), Education (Rs. 66,000), and Famine Relief (Rs. 3,05,000.) The increase under Courts of Law was due partly to payments of compensation for dearness of provisions, and partly to increased expenditure under Salaries, and that under Jails to larger purchases of grain made in the two closing months of the year. The increase under Police was due partly to the opening of new outposts and to an increase in the number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and payment of their travelling allowances, but chiefly to compensation for the dearness of food-grains, a concession which was extended to the constables employed on watch and ward duty on railways and as punitive police.

4. The total expenditure on Famine Relief for 1896-97 as passed by the Government of India amounted to Rs. 23,00,000, thus—

				India. Rs.
Imperial	...	...	...	.....
Provincial	...	...	...	18,50,000
Local	...	...	...	4,50,000
				<hr/>
	Total	...	...	23,00,000
				<hr/>

The total expenditure in 1896-97 amounted to Rs. 24,42,082, of which Rs. 2,86,816 has been taken against Local, and the balance, Rs. 21,55,266, against Provincial. The details of the Provincial expenditure are shown below:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Expenditure by Civil Department—		
Salaries and establishment ...	51,228	
Relief works ...	11,34,607	
Relief to people employed otherwise than on relief works ...	108	
Gratuitous relief...	4,54,676	
Miscellaneous ...	1,94,865	
		18,35,482
Expenditure by Public Works Department—		
Civil Works Branch—		
Original Works { Civil buildings ...	2,445	
{ Communications ...	1,19,178	
{ Miscellaneous public improvements ...	89,727	
	2,11,350	
Establishment ...	27,842	
Tools and plant ...	32,739	
Suspense ...	16,365	
		2,88,296
Irrigation Branch—		
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept—Revenue ...	4,024	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept ...	10,620	
Agricultural works in the districts of Champaran and Nadia ...	16,844	
		31,488
Total ...	...	21,55,266

5. The actual net result was a deficit of Rs. 18,65,581, against Rs. 17,13,000 anticipated when the revised estimate for the year was passed.

REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1897-98.

6. The budget estimate for 1897-98 as passed by the Government of India accepted Rs. 41,07,000 as the opening balance, and provided for receipts aggregating Rs. 4,54,83,000 and the expenditure Rs. 4,85,90,000, so that the year should close with a balance of Rs. 10,00,000. The revised estimates now passed by the Government of India provide for a total revenue of Rs. 4,61,07,000 and the expenditure of Rs. 4,95,22,000. The net result is a deficit of Rs. 34,15,000, against Rs. 31,07,000 anticipated last year. The chief cause of this falling off is due to the debit of Rs. 30,78,000 under Famine Relief, against Rs. 22,18,000, originally estimated. When the estimates for the year were passed by the Government of India in March 1897, it was anticipated that Local Funds would be able to contribute Rs. 8,17,000 towards the total outlay on Famine Relief measures, and that of the remainder, Rs. 22,18,000 would be borne by Provincial Funds, this being the sum which those revenues could bear without reducing the Provincial balance below half the minimum of 20 lakhs prescribed by the Secretary of State as the working balance in ordinary years. As Local Funds have hitherto contributed Rs. 3,56,000 only against Rs. 8,17,000 estimated in March 1897, the Government of India have directed that the Provincial Revenues must make good the amount (Rs. 8,17,000—Rs. 3,56,000=Rs. 4,61,000) which the local bodies are unable to pay, and have accordingly reduced the closing balance of the Local Government from Rs. 10,00,000 to Rs. 5,39,000. The chief difficulty in realizing the full amount of contribution estimated in March 1897 lies in the fact that the Local Funds of the districts in which famine was anticipated, but was not actually declared, cannot fairly be called upon to contribute to expenditure incurred outside those districts, while in others the repairing of damages caused by the earthquake and the measures for

the prevention of bubonic plague are likely to tell heavily on their resources, so that there may be some practical difficulty in enforcing the full liability originally imposed. The question what contribution can be demanded is under the consideration of Government.

7. On the receipt side the revenue is expected to show an increase, as stated above, from Rs. 4,54,83,000 to Rs. 4,61,07,000, or by Rs. 6,24,000. Of this, Rs. 4,00,000 are under Provincial Rates, owing to the increase of cess demands from revaluations, and Rs. 3,65,000 under Irrigation and Navigation, from larger collections of water-rates on the Sone Canals owing to the dryness of the earlier part of the year and the consequent high demand for water. There are also small increases under Stamps (Rs. 1,31,000), Jails (Rs. 1,02,000) and Marine (Rs. 1,46,000). Against these increases there are decreases of Rs. 3,00,000 under Excise, owing to the prevailing scarcity and high prices of food-grains, in consequence of which a large number of licenses have remained unsettled in some districts, while in others settlements could only be effected at reduced rates; and Rs. 2,57,000 under Miscellaneous, owing to partition fees and fees for Government audit of Incorporated Local Funds being now adjusted in reduction of charges instead of being credited to that head.

8. The net increase of expenditure is Rs. 9,32,000, which is made up of an increase of Rs. 8,60,000 under Famine Relief, the reason of which is explained in paragraph 6 above, and of Rs. 1,26,000 under Irrigation and Navigation, owing chiefly to an adjustment of the value of stock in the Dehri workshops, which is being transferred from Imperial to Provincial account. There are also increases in the Civil Department due to the grant of compensation to the lower paid servants of Government for the dearness of provisions, which is estimated by the Accountant-General at nearly five lakhs, of which Rs. 1,32,000 appears under Law and Justice—Courts of Law, and Rs. 2,70,000 under Police, while the balance is distributed under several other heads. Expenditure in the Medical Department has been increased by charges in connection with the suppression of plague, and by the cost of the camp at Raniganj for pilgrims to the Hedjaz. Against these increases, savings are anticipated under Land Revenue (nearly two lakhs), owing to partition fees being adjusted in reduction of charges instead of being credited separately under the head Miscellaneous.

BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1898-99.

9. The budget estimate for 1898-99 as passed by the Government of India adopts Rs. 5,39,000 as the opening balance, and places both receipts and charges at Rs. 4,55,30,000, so that the closing balance will be the same as the opening balance. Compared with the budget estimate for 1897-98, the total receipts for 1898-99 show a small increase of Rs. 47,000, while, as compared with the revised estimate, there is a falling off of Rs. 5,77,000. This reduction is due to a special assignment of Rs. 6,23,000 having been made from the Imperial Revenues in 1897-98 for survey and settlement charges which is not to be repeated in 1898-99. The receipts from the Forest Department are expected to bring in less revenue owing to the cessation of the sleeper operations in the Singhbhum Division, while the increase of revenue under Irrigation and Navigation realised in 1897-98 from water-rates in the Sone Canal is not expected to recur. The receipts under Marine also show a decrease. On the other hand the Excise revenue is expected to recover with the general improvement of agricultural prospects, and increased receipts are looked for under Provincial Rates from the revaluation of estates. On the expenditure side the total grant is Rs. 4,55,30,000 against Rs. 4,85,90,000, the budget estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 4,95,22,000, the revised estimate for the year. The reduction is chiefly due to no provision being made for Famine Relief, to the elimination of the grants for the administration of the South Lushai Hills which has been transferred to the Assam Administration from the 1st April 1898, and to the necessity of bringing the expenditure within the receipts of the year. The budget is explained somewhat more fully in the following part of the statement.

PART II.—Detailed Remarks on the Budget for 1898-99.

RECEIPTS.

10. *Land Revenue*.—The total collections under this head in 1896-97 were Rs. 3,87,68,379, and the estimate for 1898-99, including Rs. 7,51,000 for recoveries on account of the Bihar survey charges, amounts to Rs. 4,08,73,000. The increase is chiefly noticeable under collections from Government estates which are estimated at Rs. 48,67,000 against Rs. 33,99,796, the actuals of 1896-97. The increase is chiefly due to the increased demands arising from the recent settlement operations which a bumper harvest will render it possible to collect. The adjustments between Imperial and Provincial will probably result in a net transfer of Rs. 17,11,000 to Imperial in 1898-99, as shown below:—

				Rs.
Fixed contribution to Imperial Revenues under the terms of the Provincial Contract				14,19,000
<i>Add—</i>				
Contribution to Assam Administration for transfer of the South Lushai Hills				3,00,000
Total				17,19,000
<i>Deduct—</i>				
Special assignment for additional junior scholarships to pupils in Assam in recognition of the Jubilee				3,000
Grant for transfer of Imperial buildings to the charge of local agency				5,000
Total				8,000
Net sum to be transferred to Imperial Funds				17,11,000

11. The estimated Provincial share of Land Revenue is arrived at as follows:—

				Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate 1898-99.
				Rs.	Rs.
Gross Land Revenue				3,99,00,000	4,08,73,000
Deduct 12 per cent. on estimated collections from Government estates (Provincial)				5,40,000	5,84,000
Deduct on account of recoveries of Bihar Survey and Settlement charges (Imperial)				6,88,000	7,51,000
Total deduction				12,28,000	13,35,000
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial				3,86,72,000	3,95,38,000
Provincial share of above				96,68,000	98,84,000
Deduct on account of adjustments				7,69,000	17,11,000
Net				88,99,000	81,73,000
Add 12 per cent. on collections from Government estates				5,40,000	5,84,000
Total Provincial share				94,39,000	87,57,000

12. *Stamps*.—The budget estimate of the total revenue from Stamps for 1897-98 was passed by the Government of India at Rs. 1,74,25,000. The actuals in 1896-97 amounted to Rs. 1,75,74,296, and the latest returns from the Comptroller-General show that the receipts during the first eleven months of 1897-98 exceeded those of the corresponding period of the preceeding year by Rs. 64,000. As, however, a part of this increase must have been due to the execution of a large number of bonds and documents on account of scarcity, the revised estimate for 1897-98 has been placed at Rs. 1,76,00,000 and the estimate for 1898-99 at Rs. 1,76,56,000. The Provincial share is three-fourths of this sum, and amounts to Rs. 1,32,42,000.

13. *Excise*.—The budget estimate of the total revenue under this head for 1897-98 was Rs. 1,34,50,000 against Rs. 1,33,99,312, the actuals of 1896-97; but as the settlements of excise shops up to 31st May 1897 showed, owing to the scarcity then prevailing, a decrease of Rs. 4,01,144 as compared with the results of the corresponding period of 1896-97, the estimate was reduced to Rs. 1,28,00,000 in December 1897. The Comptroller-General's latest statement shows that the revenue has gradually begun to revive, and the revised estimate for 1897-98 has been passed for Rs. 1,28,50,000. The estimate for 1898-99 has been placed at Rs. 1,32,50,000, and the Provincial share of one-half amounts to Rs. 66,25,000.

14. *Provincial Rates*.—The actual collections of the Public Works Cess in 1896-97 amounted to Rs. 43,07,112, and the receipts in the first 10 months of 1897-98 showed an increase of Rs. 1,18,679 over those of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The revised estimate for 1897-98 has accordingly been raised to Rs. 44,30,000. The receipts from the general rate for the management of private estates aggregated Rs. 1,50,199 in 1896-97 and showed an increase of Rs. 19,148 in the first 10 months of 1897-98 over those of the receipts of the preceding year. The total estimate of collections for 1897-98 has accordingly been placed at Rs. 46,00,000.

15. *Forests*.—The receipts under this head have been entered at Rs. 2,67,000 less than the revised estimate for 1897-98, as the demand for sleepers for the Rai Bareilly-Benares Railway has now ceased, and no further departmental timber operations are contemplated. It is expected that Rs. 8,60,000 will be realised from timber, &c., received by purchasers.

16. *Registration*.—The budget estimate under this head for 1897-98 was Rs. 14,20,000 against Rs. 15,44,695, the actuals of 1896-97. The receipts both in the latter part of 1896-97 and in the first six months of 1897-98 were comparatively large on account of the large number of bonds, mortgages and deeds of sale registered owing to the prevailing scarcity; and the revised estimate for the year has been placed at Rs. 15,50,000. The increase in registration is not expected to continue during the current year, and the estimate has accordingly been placed at Rs. 15,10,000.

17. *Law and Justice—Courts of Law*.—The receipts from magisterial fines still continue to decline. The revised estimate for 1897-98 has been placed at Rs. 7,90,000 and the estimate for 1898-99 at Rs. 7,96,000 against Rs. 8,22,122, the actuals of 1896-97.

18. *Jails*.—The estimate under this head is Rs. 10,06,000 against Rs. 9,70,703, the actuals of 1896-97. The increase is mainly due to larger supplies of manufactures to the Military Department and the Police.

19. *Police*.—The estimate under this head is Rs. 2,22,000 against Rs. 2,42,000, the revised estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 1,88,460, the actuals of 1896-97. The increase is due to larger recoveries on account of police supplied to railway companies and for punitive police.

20. *Marine*.—The budget estimate for 1897-98 was Rs. 9,54,000, which has been raised to Rs. 11,00,000 in the revised estimate with reference to the actuals of the first ten months of the year. The increase is mainly under pilotage receipts in Calcutta, which fluctuate with the tonnage of vessels visiting and leaving the port. The estimate for 1898-99 is Rs. 10,00,000.

21. *Education*.—The estimate under this head amounts to Rs. 6,62,000 against Rs. 5,99,000, the revised estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 5,64,666, the actuals of 1896-97. The improvement is due to the inclusion of receipts from the Eden Hindu Hostel, and to larger receipts anticipated from the Kurseong Boys' and Girls' Boarding Schools.

22. *Scientific and other Minor Departments*.—The total receipts for 1898-99 are estimated at Rs. 2,31,000 against Rs. 2,19,000, the revised estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 2,03,980, the actuals of 1896-97. The increase is expected partly from larger sales of quinine and partly from receipts on account of the hostel attached to the Veterinary Institution at Belgachia.

23. *Miscellaneous*.—The receipts under this head amount to Rs. 6,94,000 against Rs. 9,35,000, the budget estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 9,13,956, the actuals of 1896-97. The decrease is due chiefly to partition fees being

now adjusted in reduction of charges in the Land Revenue budget instead of being credited to Miscellaneous, and partly to the fees for Government audit of Incorporated Local Funds being now adjusted by deduction from the Provincial expenditure of Civil offices of Account and Control in the General Administration Budget.

24. *Irrigation.—Direct receipts from Major Works.*—The budget estimate of direct receipts for 1897-98 was Rs. 16,50,000, and the revised estimate has been taken at Rs. 20,00,000; the reason of the increase of Rs. 3,50,000 is that on all the canals the collection of water-rates and the navigation receipts and on the Midnapore Canal the miscellaneous receipts are expected to exceed the budget. The actual receipts during 1896-97 were Rs. 19,09,613, of which the sum of Rs. 13,05,121 was from water rates only. The budget estimate for 1898-99 is Rs. 17,02,000.

25. *Civil Works.*—The estimate of receipts in charge of the Public Works Department is Rs. 1,93,000, which is the same as the budget estimate for 1897-98. The actuals in 1896-97 were Rs. 2,71,369, but they included Rs. 36,507, being profits of the Calcutta Workshops, and Rs. 63,649, being the Government share of the surplus profits of Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for the year ending 30th June 1896. The estimate of receipts from works in charge of the Civil Department is Rs. 2,58,000, and Rs. 11,000 for rent of staging bungalows, which are credited under this head from 1897-98 instead of under the head Miscellaneous as heretofore.

EXPENDITURE.

26. *Refunds and Drawbacks.*—The total Provincial expenditure in 1898-99 is estimated at Rs. 1,78,000, against Rs. 1,73,000, the revised estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 1,86,744, the actuals of 1896-97. The actuals for 1896-97 included some special payments in the district of Faridpur to claimants of mesne profits which had been credited to Government under Land Revenue. Larger provision has been made under Stamps owing to the anticipated increase in revenue.

27. *Land Revenue.*—The total Provincial expenditure for 1897-98 was originally estimated at Rs. 45,71,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 43,85,000, owing to partition fees having been adjusted, under the orders of the Comptroller-General, in reduction of charges, instead of being credited to Miscellaneous, as heretofore. The excess expenditure under the head of grain compensation allowance has been counterbalanced by savings due to lower rate of exchange compensation allowance. The estimate for 1898-99 is Rs. 40,48,000, which includes a provision of Rs. 4,65,000 for Survey and Settlement charges, against Rs. 8,06,000 provided for in the budget for 1897-98. The following are the details of the charges under these heads for 1898-99:—

		Surveys.	Settlements.	Total.
1		2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Orissa, including Khurda	...	.....	3,40,792	3,40,792
Chittagong	...	...	43,359	43,359
Backergunge	...	...	14,390	14,390
Gaya	...	...	1,000	1,000
Noakhali	...	3,300	12,000	15,300
Ghatwali lands, Bankura	...	.....	10,161	10,161
Petty settlements	...	.....	40,000	40,000
Total	...	3,300	4,61,702	4,65,002 or 4,65,000 in round numbers.

Against this reduction larger grants have been made for agricultural and sanitary improvements in Government estates.

28. *Excise*.—The total expenditure for 1898-99 is estimated at Rs. 6,92,000, against Rs. 6,69,000, the revised estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 6,96,420, the actuals of 1896-97. The estimate for 1898-99 includes a provision of Rs. 15,000 for the supply of uniforms to the Excise Detective staff and for the strengthening of that staff in Bihar in case it is decided to introduce the system of tree-tax on toddy trees. The actuals of 1896-97 included charges for the construction and repairs of distillery buildings which have now been transferred to the Public Works Department.

29. *Provincial Rates*.—The Provincial expenditure for 1897-98 was originally estimated at Rs. 1,19,000, against Rs. 74,204, the actuals of 1896-97. It was intended to revise the arrangement sanctioned in 1879, under which the Government cost of collecting the cess was fixed once for all at Rs. 48,000, which was equivalent to one-third of the cost as it then stood, and the balance was made payable by the District Funds. In settling the terms of the new contract, the Government of India were asked to make an assignment so that the Government share might be fixed at a sum equal to one-third of the cost actually incurred in 1896-97. But that Government was unable to make any assignment on this account; and in view of the diminished resources of this Government, it has been decided to defer sanction to the contemplated change for the present. The revised estimate under this head has now been reduced from Rs. 1,19,000 to Rs. 60,000, and the estimate for 1898-99 has been placed at Rs. 59,000.

30. *Forests*.—The budget grant for 1898-99 is Rs. 5,55,000, against Rs. 7,07,000 and Rs. 6,25,000, the budget and revised estimates for 1897-98 respectively. Rupees 82,000 have been provided for in 1898-99 for Roads and Building (including Rs. 6,000 for a portable tramway in the Darjeeling Division, and Rs. 14,000 for the construction of two head-quarters bungalows, works which had to be deferred in 1897-98). The increased provision in the budget for 1898-99 is also due to the fact that the reorganization scheme will now be fully worked up to, and that the vacancies in the class of Extra Assistant Conservators will be filled up.

31. *Registration*.—The estimate for 1898-99 is Rs. 8,87,000, against Rs. 8,73,000, the budget estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 8,52,358, the actuals of 1896-97. The increase is chiefly due to larger provision for commission to Rural Sub-Registrars and remuneration to copyists and section-writers.

32. *General Administration*.—The total Provincial expenditure in 1897-98 was originally estimated at Rs. 17,28,000, but in the revised estimate this has been reduced to Rs. 17,02,000. The reduction is nominal and is due to the audit fees recovered from Incorporated Local Funds having been adjusted in reduction of charges under the sub-head "Civil Offices of Accounts and Audit" instead of being credited to the head "Miscellaneous." The estimate for 1898-99 has been placed at Rs. 17,24,000, and includes a provision of Rs. 40,000 for the construction of a new steamer for the Commissioner of Chittagong, as the old one has become unserviceable.

33. *Law and Justice—Criminal Courts*.—The original estimate of expenditure for 1897-98 was Rs. 89,42,000, against Rs. 89,53,640, the actuals of 1896-97. The compensation for dearness of provisions, debited to this head in 1897-98, will probably amount to Rs. 1,32,000, and the estimate of total expenditure has been raised to Rs. 90,60,000 in the revised estimate of the year. The estimate for 1898-99 is Rs. 89,73,000, and includes larger provision for fees to pleaders in criminal cases and for process-serving charges.

34. *Jails*.—The estimate for 1898-99 amounts to Rs. 23,50,000, against Rs. 25,00,000, the revised estimate for 1897-98, and Rs. 25,91,572, the actuals of 1896-97. Both the revised estimate for 1897-98 and the actuals of 1896-97 included larger grants for dieting charges consequent on the rise of the price of food-grains. In the estimates for 1898-99 a provision of Rs. 7,00,000 has been made for the purchase of raw materials, against Rs. 6,50,000 provided for in the estimates for 1897-98 and Rs. 7,75,626, the actuals of 1896-97.

35. *Police*.—The following table compares the estimates of expenditure under this head:—

	Actuals, 1896-97.	Estimates, 1897-98.	Revised estimates, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Presidency Police ...	7,68,301	7,53,000	7,66,000	7,65,000
Municipal Police ...	45,082	45,000	48,000	46,500
Superintendence ...	1,65,903	1,52,000	1,53,000	1,59,000
District Executive Force ...	46,36,909	44,92,000	48,11,000	45,91,000
Village Police ...	20,208	20,000	20,000	65,000
Special Police ...	4,55,282	5,00,000	4,05,000	1,16,500
Railway Police ...	1,20,440	1,29,000	1,32,000	1,32,500
Cattle-pounds ...	4,237	5,000	4,000	5,000
Upper Burma Police charges ...	.....	14,000	14,000	14,000
Refunds ...	2,737	6,000	3,000	3,000
Lump addition for increase to the pay of peons ...	.....	2,000	.....	.....
Deduct for rounding ...				58,97,500 500
Total ...	62,19,099	61,18,000	63,62,000	58,97,000

The original estimate of expenditure for 1897-98 amounted to Rs. 61,18,000, against Rs. 62,19,099, the actuals of 1896-97. The revised estimate has been raised to Rs. 63,62,000 in order to provide for Rs. 2,70,000 on account of grain compensation allowance for dearness of provision. The decrease in the budget for 1898-99 as compared with the revised estimate for 1897-98 is due chiefly to no expenditure being anticipated that year on account of grain compensation allowance, and to the transfer of the South Lushai Hills Police to the Assam Administration from the 1st April 1898. Under Village Police provision has been made for the introduction of the Village Police system into Orissa under Act VI (B.C.) of 1870. Under District Executive Force provision has been made for the substitution of Sub-Inspectors for head-constables, in accordance with the recommendation of the Police Commission, for temporary police force required in connection with the various Plague Camps, and for additional police sanctioned in the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district and in the district of Backergunge. Provision has also been made for the revision of boat establishment and allowances in Backergunge sanctioned as a tentative measure.

36. *Marine*.—The estimate for 1898-99 is Rs. 8,91,000 against Rs. 9,11,000, the sanctioned estimate for 1897-98. The decrease is under 'Pilotage and Pilot Establishment,' the expenditure under which varies according to the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the ports. A provision of Rs. 12,000 has been made for a light for the Kutubdia light-house at Chittagong to be indented for from England.

37. *Education*.—The total expenditure for 1898-99 has been estimated at Rs. 28,97,000 against Rs. 27,46,000, the sanctioned grant, and Rs. 27,80,000, the revised estimate for 1897-98. The increase is due to (1) the reorganization of the Educational Service; (2) the appointment of two additional Inspectors and of two Sub-Inspectors; (3) the large provision made for boarding charges in the Kurseong Boys' Boarding School; (4) the opening of a new boarding school for girls at Kurseong; (5) the provision for boarding charges of the Eden Hindu Hostel, a corresponding entry being made on the receipt of European Schools; and (7) larger expenditure on grants for the encouragement of literature and other purposes. The provision for the Agricultural class of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, and for apparatus for the mining course has been repeated.

38. *Medical*.—The estimate for 1898-99 shows an increase of Rs. 52,000 over the charges originally sanctioned for 1897-98, of which Rs. 50,000 are due to the provision for the prevention of plague. On the other hand the revised estimate for 1897-98 has been raised to Rs. 19,58,000 so as to provide a lakh and-a-half on account of the above expenditure, while savings are anticipated under the head of salaries of medical men owing to the deputation of several medical officers to military and famine duty.

39. *Scientific and other Minor Departments*.—There is an increase of Rs. 10,000 as compared with the budget for 1897-98 which is explained by the increase under "Veterinary Charges" owing to the increase in the pay of lecturers, employment of additional establishment and provision for boarding charges of the students in the hostel attached to the school. The small differences under other subheads do not call for special remarks.

40. *Miscellaneous*.—The estimate for 1898-99 is Rs. 19,000 less than the budget for 1897-98. The decrease is due to no provision having been made for special Commissions of enquiry and also to the transfer of the charges for staging bungalows to head "45—Civil Works."

41. *Irrigation Major Works*.—Under the category of Major Works are included the Orissa Canals, the Midnapore Canal, the Hidjili Tidal Canal, and the Sone Canals, the outlay for the construction and extension of all which has for the most part been advanced from the Imperial Treasury, while the Provincial Government, which gets all the receipts from these works, is responsible for the maintenance of them and for the payment of interest on the capital invested on them. The total grant for working expenses for 1898-99 is Rs. 13,67,000 against Rs. 14,46,000, the budget grant for 1897-98, and Rs. 13,60,000, the revised estimate for the year, as shown below:—

			Budget estimate, 1897-98.	Revised estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.
1			2	3	4
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Orissa Canals	...	...	5,67,000	4,90,000	4,63,000
Midnapore Canal	...	...	2,59,000	2,36,000	2,59,000
Hidjili Tidal Canal	...	...	55,000	48,000	61,000
Sone Canals	...	...	5,65,000	5,88,000	5,84,000
Total	...	...	14,46,000	13,60,000	13,67,000

The decrease in the revised estimate for 1897-98 is due to the reduction of the grants for the Orissa, Midnapore and Hidjili Canals against a small addition of Rs. 23,000 to the grant for Sone Canals. The amount of Interest on debt varies with the amount outstanding from time to time.

42. *Irrigation Minor Works in charge of the Public Works Department*.—The revised estimate for 1897-98 is Rs. 17,44,000 against the budget estimate of Rs. 15,25,000. The increase is mainly due to the additional grants (1) of Rs. 1,05,000 sanctioned to meet the transfer of the stock of the Dehri Workshops from "49—Imperial" to this head; (2) of Rs. 30,000 for the repairs to the Kutubdia embankments in Chittagong damaged by the cyclone; (3) of Rs. 30,000 sanctioned for repairs to embankments in the South-Western Circle and other works; and (4) of Rs. 54,000 transferred from 42—Major Works to meet increased charges for capital expenditure on Orissa and Calcutta and Eastern Canals. The budget estimate of total expenditure for 1898-99 is Rs. 14,83,000 against Rs. 15,25,000 for 1897-98. The estimate for 1898-99 includes an assignment of Rs. 1,36,800 under Calcutta and Eastern Canals for the Bhangore khal improvement project against Rs. 3,78,000 in 1897-98. The variations under other heads are shown in detail in Appendix B.

43. *Civil Works.*—The expenditure in charge of the Public Works Department has been greatly reduced owing to the reduction of the Provincial balance. The allotment includes the following grants for original works:—

	Rs.
Reconstructing the Collector's outchery with subsidiary buildings at Bogra ...	25,000
Reconstruction of the Collectorate buildings at Rangpur damaged by the earthquake ...	55,750
Reconstruction of the outcherics at Dacca and Mymensingh damaged by the earthquake ...	1,40,000
Reconstruction of the Judge's Court buildings at Rangpur damaged by the earthquake ...	25,000
Construction of new double Munsifi at Jalpaiguri ...	18,000
Ditto a subdivisional Court-house at Gaibanda ...	15,000
Ditto a subdivisional residence at Serampore ...	20,000
Ditto a central ganja golah at Nowgong ...	20,000
Ditto a parsonage for St. John's Church at Calcutta ...	20,000
Ditto a residence for the District Superintendent of Police, Noakhali ...	12,000
Providing cubicles and constructing a third double-storied barrack with cubicles in Bhagalpur Central Jail ...	41,657
Constructing new Chemical block, Medical College ...	23,000
Ditto Pathological and Physiological buildings, Medical College ...	20,000
Compensation for land required for the new quarters for Military students, Medical College ...	20,000
Fittings for Chemical Department, Medical College ...	25,000
Improvements to Campbell Hospital ...	50,000
Bridge on 44th mile of the road from Ranchi to Purulia ...	18,000
Constructing roads in the Duars ...	50,000
Improving first section of the road from Tista Bridge to Rungpoo	60,312

No funds have been provided in the budget for the construction of the European General Hospital, Calcutta, as there is no balance available from the Provincial grant for Public Works. The Government of India have, however, promised to provide a sum of 3 lakhs on account of this work in the Imperial Civil Works Budget for 1898-99.

H. H. RISLEY.

CALCUTTA,
The 2nd April 1898.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL REVENUE.

(In Rupees omitting 000's excepting in the Actuals.)

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.
1	2	3	4	5
Opening balance	58,20,076	41,07	39,54	5,89
Principal Heads of Revenue—				
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	1,00,01,412	1,01,42	1,02,08	1,04,68
{ Adjustments	—13,46,158	—7,96	—7,69	—17,11
III.—Salt	1,34,239	.....	.....	.....
IV.—Stamps	1,31,80,722	1,30,69	1,32 00	1,32,42
V.—Excise	83,49,828	67,25	64,25	66,25
VI.—Provincial Rates	44,57,311	42,00	46,00	47,30
VII.—Customs	94,114	91	91	93
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	24,69,220	24,50	24,50	24,50
IX.—Forests	6,85,425	6,50	6,98	4,64
X.—Registration	7,72,347	7,10	7,75	7,55
Total	3,37,88,530	3,72,41	3,75,78	3,71,16
XII.—Interest	2,31,839	2,09	2,96	4,27
Post-Office, Telegraph and Mint—				
XIII.—Post-Office	263	.....	.....	.....
Receipts by Civil Department—				
XVI.—Law and Justice—				
Courts of Law	3,23,123	3,30	7,90	7,96
Jails	9,71,708	9,08	10,10	10,06
XVII.—Police	1,88,460	1,80	2,42	2,23
XVIII.—Marine	9,37,027	9,54	11,00	10,00
XIX.—Education	5,64,666	6,27	5,99	6,62
XX.—Medical	1,95,848	2,11	2,01	2,00
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	2,03,460	2,23	2,19	2,31
Total	38,85,857	39,33	41,61	41,17
Miscellaneous—				
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	54,170	60	56	56
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	1,28,216	1,34	1,24	1,24
XXV.—Miscellaneous	9,13,956	9,86	6,78	6,94
Total	10,96,372	11,29	8,58	8,74
Railway—				
State Railways	44,82,590	.....	.....	.....
Irrigation—				
XXIX.—Major works (direct receipts)	19,09,613	16,50	20,00	17,08
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—				
By Public Works Department	6,74,241	6,60	6,60	7,16
By Civil Department	1,82,995	1,16	1,31	1,27
Total	27,16,849	24,26	27,91	25,45
Buildings and Roads—				
XXXII.—Civil Works—				
By Public Works Department	2,71,369	1,98	1,98	1,98
By Civil Department	2,46,069	2,52	2,30	2,58
Total	5,17,438	4,46	4,23	4,51
Contributions	1,32,298	.....	.....	.....
Total	4,68,51,986	4,64,28	4,61,07	4,55,80
GRAND TOTAL	5,26,72,062	4,95,90	5,00,61	4,60,69

BENGAL PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE.

(In Rupees, omitting 000's, excepting in the Actuals.)

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.
1	2	3	4	5
Direct demand on the revenue—				
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	1,86,744	1,71	1,73	1,78
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	1,04,887	1,64	1,65	1,65
3. Land Revenue ...	87,20,591	45,71	43,85	40,43
4. Salt ...	50,799	.....	.....	.....
5. Stamps ...	5,06,520	5,27	5,14	5,38
6. Excise ...	1,74,105	2,57	3,35	3,46
7. Provincial Rates ...	74,204	1,19	60	59
8. Customs ...	7,60,253	8,00	7,80	7,97
9. Assessed Taxes ...	91,231	96	96	96
10. Forests ...	3,45,021	3,53	3,13	2,77
11. Registration ...	4,26,179	4,37	4,38	4,44
Total ...	65,00,324	75,95	72,58	69,46
Interest—				
12. Interest on ordinary debt ...	2,14,676	2,15	2,25	2,45
Post-office, Telegraph, and Mint—				
13. Post-office ...	4,919	10	5	3
Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—				
14. General Administration ...	17,56,921	17,28	17,02	17,24
15. Law and Justice { Courts of Law ...	89,53,640	89,43	90,60	89,73
Jails ...	26,91,572	22,32	25,00	23,50
16. Police ...	62,19,099	61,18	63,62	58,97
17. Marine ...	8,73,032	9,11	9,21	8,91
18. Education ...	27,41,826	27,46	27,80	28,97
19. Medical ...	19,40,98	19,18	19,58	19,70
20. Political ...	21,617	25	19	18
21. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	4,42,538	4,55	4,54	4,65
Total ...	2,55,39,843	2,50,75	2,57,56	2,51,85
Miscellaneous—				
22. Superannuation, &c. ...	19,18,352	20,32	20,83	21,26
23. Stationery and Printing ...	10,98,907	11,34	11,12	11,16
24. Miscellaneous ...	2,42,156	2,57	2,35	2,38
Total ...	32,59,415	34,23	34,30	34,80
Famine Relief and Insurance—				
25. Famine Relief ...	21,55,265	22,18	20,78	.....
Railway (Revenue Account)—				
26. Subsidised Companies—Land, &c. ...	-117	.....	.....	.....
Irrigation—				
27. Major Works—				
Working expenses ...	12,91,881	14,46	13,60	13,67
Interest on debt ...	24,64,143	24,64	24,61	24,59
28. Minor Works and Navigation—				
By Public Works Department ...	17,78,208	15,25	17,41	14,33
By Civil Department ...	4,911	8	4	13
Total ...	55,29,143	54,43	55,69	53,22
Buildings and Roads—				
29. Civil Works—				
By Public Works Department ...	35,24,575	32,50	39,75	32,06
By Civil Department ...	3,04,375	1,36	1,26	90
Total ...	38,28,950	33,86	41,01	32,96
Contributions ...	16,85,149	12,35	11,00	10,50
Total ...	4,87,17,567	4,85,90	4,95,22	4,55,30
Closing balance ...	89,54,495	10,00	5,39	5,39
TOTAL ...	5,26,72,062	4,95,90	5,00,61	4,60,69
...	-18,65,581	-31,07	-24,15	.....

APPENDIX A.

Bengal Provincial Receipts in detail of minor heads.

[The figures in columns 4 and 5 are those accepted by the Government of India.]

I.—Land Revenue—

HEAD.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	
Gross Land Revenue	3,67,68,379	3,92,60,000	3,99,00,000	4,06,73,000	Increase due to revision of settlements.
Deduct 12 per cent. on collections from Government estates (Provincial)	4,63,607	5,40,000	5,40,000	5,84,000	
Deduct recoveries of Bihar survey and settlement charges (Imperial)	1,53,533	2,00,000	2,88,000	7,61,000	
Total deduction	6,17,139	8,40,000	12,28,000	13,35,000	
Net amount divisible between Imperial and Provincial Funds	3,61,51,239	3,84,20,000	3,86,72,000	3,95,38,000	As per details below.
Provincial share of above (one-fourth)	95,37,805	96,05,000	96,68,000	98,84,000	
Deduct on account of adjustments	—13,46,088	—7,96,000	—7,99,000	—17,11,000	
Net	81,91,717	88,09,000	88,69,000	81,73,000	
Add 11 per cent. collections	4,63,607	5,40,000	5,40,000	5,84,000	
Total Provincial share	86,55,324	93,49,000	94,09,000	87,57,000	

Adjustments—

Fixed contribution to Imperial Revenue under the terms of the contract	14,30,000	14,19,000	14,19,000	14,19,000	The administration of the South Lushai Hills has been transferred to Assam from the 1st April 1898.
Add payable to Imperial Funds—					
Interest on advance for the Hijili Tidal Canal.	29,510	...	...	...
Contribution towards the cost of a clock for the General Post Office	5,000	...	...	...
Grant for temporary establishment for the office of the Meteorological Reporter, Bengal, for recalculation of Meteorological mean value published in the Provincial Weather Report	750	...	...	...
Half of the deferred interest payable by the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, on the Kidderpore Dock loans	2,00,000	...	...	...
Contribution on account of transfer of South Lushai Hills to Assam ... ..	...	...	...	3,00,000
Total	16,74,260	14,19,000	14,19,000	17,19,000	
Deduct to be recovered from Imperial Funds—					
Special assignment on account of survey and settlement charges	6,23,000	6,23,000	...	Special scholarships for Assamese students sanctioned by the Assam Administration in Bengal in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.
Advance for the Hijili Tidal Canal	36,563	...	...	...
Grant for transfer of Imperial buildings to the charge of local bodies	48,801	...	12,000	5,000	
Assignment for Gnatong Police	15,680	...	...	...
Grant to meet the cost of additional Customs establishments for Calcutta and Chittagong	1,91,912	...	...	...
Salary, passage-money and outfit allowance of probationer gardeners for the Royal Botanic Garden	2,448	...	...	...
Assam Jubilee scholarships ... ..	...	...	3,000	3,000
Towing charges of the Rhotas	10,000	...	...	...
Grant for the transfer of Observatory buildings to charge of the Provincial Public Works Department	1,491	...	...	...
Assignment for loss of revenue on account of the discontinuance of the system of prepayment of duty in Bengal on goods exported to the North-Western Provinces and Oudh ... ..	...	...	11,000	...
Expenditure incurred upon the completion of suitable road from Luchen and Luchong, Sikkim	57,514	...	...	...
Total	3,38,174	6,23,000	6,50,000	8,000	
Net sum to be transferred	13,46,088	7,96,000	7,69,000	17,11,000	

III.—Salt—

Rent of warehouses	91,069	The receipts have been made Imperial from 1897-98 under the terms of the new Provincial contract.
Miscellaneous	42,150	...	...	...
Total	1,34,239	...	...	...

IV.—Stamps—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sale of general stamps	51,02,707	49,70,000	50,00,000	49,15,000	These receipts were exceptionally high in 1896-97 owing to the execution of a large number of bonds and documents on account of scarcity. This head shows a progressive increase. Based on actuals. There were special receipts on account of composition duty in the last six months of 1896-97, and in the first six months of 1897-98, which are not expected to recur.
Sale of court-fee stamps	1,31,68,135	1,31,60,000	1,32,00,000	1,34,50,000	
Sale of plain paper to be used with court-fee stamps	2,52,481	2,45,000	2,52,000	2,50,000	
Duty on impressing documents	11,004	20,000	11,000	11,000	
Fines and penalties	24,736	25,000	25,000	25,000	
Miscellaneous	15,033	5,000	12,000	5,000	
Total ...	1,76,74,296	1,74,35,000	1,76,00,000	1,76,55,000	
Provincial share (three-fourths) ...	1,31,60,732	1,30,60,000	1,32,00,000	1,32,42,000	

V.—Excise—

License and Distillery fees and duties for the sale of liquors and drugs	1,01,99,081	1,03,80,000	98,85,000	99,50,000	The decrease in 1897-98 was due to the scarcity and consequent unfavourable settlements.
Gain on sale-proceeds of excise opium	17,25,000	17,55,000	18,50,000	17,80,000	
Duty on ganja	14,56,376	14,00,000	13,20,000	15,00,000	
Fines, confiscations and miscellaneous	17,853	15,000	18,000	20,000	
Total ...	1,33,99,316	1,34,60,000	1,28,50,000	1,32,50,000	
Provincial share	83,40,830	87,35,000	84,25,000	86,23,000	Provincial share in 1896-97 was one-fourth and under the new contract is one-half.

VI.—Provincial Rates—

Public Works Cess	49,07,112	46,00,000	44,30,000	45,50,000	Increase expected from re-valuations.
General rates for management of private estates ...	1,50,120	1,40,000	1,70,000	1,80,000	
Total ...	49,57,311	47,00,000	46,00,000	47,30,000	

VII.—Customs—

Sea Customs - Miscellaneous	55,885	54,000	52,000	55,000	Based on actuals.
Warehouse and Wharf-rent	7,429	7,000	8,000	7,000	
Miscellaneous— Fees for registration of cargo boats	347				
Other items	963				
Total Miscellaneous ...	1,300		1,000	1,000	
Total ...	64,114	61,000	61,000	63,000	

VIII.—Assessed Taxes—

Deductions by Government from salaries and pensions, &c.	4,93,189	4,95,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	Based on actuals.
Deductions by Government from interest on Government securities	13,708	15,000	14,000	14,000	
Deductions from salaries, &c., by local authority or company	24,094	25,000	25,000	25,000	
Income-tax on securities of local authority or company	65,850	60,000	65,000	65,000	
Deductions from profits of Railway Company	2,598	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Ordinary collections	42,76,002	42,32,000	42,35,000	42,25,000	
Penalties	20,332	25,000	25,000	25,000	
Miscellaneous	12,680	15,000	18,000	13,000	
Total ...	49,18,440	49,00,000	49,00,000	49,00,000	
Provincial share (one-half)	24,59,220	24,50,000	24,50,000	24,50,000	

IX.—Forests—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency	5,12,993	4,50,000	3,26,000	31,200	The budget for 1897-98 was prepared on the assumption that the sleepers supplied to the Ral Bareilly Railway in that year would be paid for in full in that year, but a part was paid in advance before the close of the preceding year, and this accounts for the decrease in the revised estimate. The decrease in 1898-99 is due to cessation of sleeper operations in the Singhbhum Division.
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers	8,06,161	8,17,000	7,72,000	8,59,800	
Confiscated drift and wail wood	7,915	9,000	9,000	8,600	The decrease in the revised estimate is due to the falling off in the Sundarbans Division owing to famine.
Miscellaneous	24,781	23,400	23,000	26,400	
Total	13,70,849	13,00,000	11,95,000	9,28,000	
Provincial share (one-half)	6,85,425	6,50,000	5,98,000	4,64,000	

X.—Registration—

Fees for registering documents	14,63,315	12,65,000	14,82,000	14,50,000	The increases in 1896-97 and 1897-98 are due partly to the famine and partly to increased facilities afforded by the opening of new offices.
Fees for copies of registered documents	21,735	20,000	22,000	20,000	
Miscellaneous	20,045	22,000	40,000	40,000	
Total	15,44,095	14,80,000	15,60,000	16,10,000	
Provincial share (one-half)	7,72,047	7,10,000	7,75,000	7,65,000	

XII.—Interest—

Class I.—Interest on advances to cultivators— On advances to cultivators under Land Improvement Loans Act	16,696	22,000	20,000	1,26,000	Calculated on the estimated outstanding mean balance.
On advances to cultivators under Agri- culturists' Loans Act, XXII of 1894					
Class II.—Interest on advances under Special Loans— On Drainage and Embankment Ad- vances	25,007	52,000	41,000	83,000	Calculated on the estimated outstanding mean balance, including the balance on account of the Rajapur drainage scheme, on which interest is being realised from 1897-98.
Class III.—Interest on loans to landholders, &c. ...	2,551	1,200	1,000	1,000	
Class IV.—Interest on loans to Municipal and other Public Corporations (excluding 'Presi- dency Corporations')	1,24,367	1,40,000	1,00,000	1,02,000	Calculated on the estimated outstanding mean balance.
Interest on Government Securities	11,884	11,000	18,000	12,000	
Miscellaneous— Interest on arrears of Public Works Cess Interest on the Capital cost of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's house, &c.	40,544	38,000	20,000	20,000	
Other items		1,300	1,300	1,200	
Interest on samindari embankment re- coveries, &c.		1,700	700	700	
Total Miscellaneous	40,544	40,700	22,000	22,000	
GRAND TOTAL	2,31,520	2,00,000	2,06,000	4,27,000	

XIII.—Post Office—

Recoveries on account of establishment employed in Postmaster-General's office	269	The recoveries are now adjusted in the books of the Comptroller of Post Offices.
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XVIIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sale-proceeds of Unclaimed and Reclaimed Property	29,013	35,000	30,000	30,000	Based on average actuals.
Court-fees realised in cash	51,401	55,000	50,000	50,000	
General Fees, Fines and Forfeitures	6,89,953	7,23,000	6,49,000	6,62,000	
Pleadership Examination Fees	59,804	59,000	45,000	40,000	
Miscellaneous	11,893	8,000	17,000	13,000	
Total	8,23,123	8,30,000	7,90,000	7,94,000	

XVIB.—Jails—

Jails	11,468	9,000	18,000	13,000	Increase for larger supplies to the Military and the Police Departments.
Jail Manufactures	9,59,343	9,00,000	9,92,000	9,94,000	
Total	9,70,708	9,09,000	10,10,000	10,06,000	

XVII.—Police—

Police supplied to Municipal, Cantonment and Town Funds	2,947	2,000	2,000	2,000	The increase is due to larger recoveries on account of police supplied to Railway Companies and for Punitive Police.
Police supplied to Public Departments, private companies and persons	26,064	35,000	34,000	73,000	
Presidency Police	97,578	90,000	90,000	93,000	
Recoveries on account of Village Police	1,038	2,000	2,000	1,000	
Fees, Fines and Forfeitures	34,898	35,000	35,000	36,000	
Superannuation Receipts	355	1,000		1,000	
Miscellaneous	2,280	8,000	12,000	9,000	
Total	1,38,460	1,80,000	2,42,000	2,22,000	

XVIII.—Marine—

Sale-proceeds of Vessels and Stores	2,303	2,000	2,000	2,000	The receipts under this head fluctuate and depend on the tonnage of vessels visiting the port. They were unusually high in 1897-98.
Registration and other Fees	61,348	42,000	46,000	44,000	
Pilotage Receipts { Calcutta	5,30,034	3,27,000	9,90,000	3,77,000	
Chittagong	11,255	17,000		16,500	
Lead-money of Volunteers		6,000		6,000	
Miscellaneous.					
Deductions for Mess-money	10,088	10,200	80,000	12,000	
Contribution to Life-boat Establishment, Goalundo	240	300		300	
Marine Survey	20,445	22,000		27,700	
Other Items	4,356	4,500		4,500	
Total Miscellaneous	61,129	50,000	80,000	54,500	
Total	9,37,037	9,64,000	11,00,000	10,00,000	

XIX.—Education—

Fees, Government Colleges { General	1,67,774	1,68,000	1,80,000	1,76,000	Larger receipts are anticipated from fees from boarders of the Kurseong Boys' and Girls' Boarding Schools. The proposal to include the receipts and expenditure of the Eden Hindu Hostel in Calcutta in the Provincial account was not carried out in 1897-98. They will be incorporated in the accounts of 1898-99.
Professional	87,924	39,000	38,000	38,000	
Schools, General	2,12,472	2,67,000	2,34,000	2,97,000	
Schools, Special	17,121	18,000	15,000	17,000	
Contributions from Native States, private persons and municipalities	9,145	8,000	12,000	9,000	
Income from endowments	5,150	8,000	5,000	6,000	
Miscellaneous	18,070	10,000	25,000	25,000	
Total	5,64,666	6,37,000	5,99,000	6,63,000	

XX.—Medical—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Medical School and College Fees	55,537	55,000	55,000	55,000	Based on actuals.
Hospital receipts	75,803	84,000	75,000	75,000	
Lunatic Asylum Receipts	24,284	29,000	24,000	24,000	
Medicines sold by Civil Surgeons	128	.....	.....	.....
Contributions (from Municipalities and private persons)	36,130	30,000	30,000	30,000	
Miscellaneous	4,856	4,000	5,000	4,000	
Total ...	1,98,848	2,11,000	2,01,000	2,00,000	

XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments—

Botanic and other gardens	3,702	5,000	3,000	4,400	Increase is due to recoveries of boarding charges from students of the Veterinary Institution. Larger receipts are expected from the sale of quinine.
Veterinary and stallion receipts	4,785	5,000	5,000	9,800	
Cinchona plantation	1,61,814	1,74,000	1,77,000	1,63,500	
Receipts on account of experimental cultivation ...	2,160	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Ditto ditto of public exhibitions and fairs ...	1	.....	.....	.....
Emigration fees	25,313	32,000	25,000	25,000	
Examination fees	5,661	5,000	6,000	5,500	
Add for rounding ... ..	.....	.....	.....	500	
Total ...	2,03,980	2,23,000	2,19,000	2,31,000	

XXII.—Superannuations—

Deductions for Pension Fund (Marine)	8,000	8,000	8,000	The receipts have been provincialized in the new contract.
Family subscriptions of Native members of the Covenanted Civil Service	1,686	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Contributions of officers lent to Municipalities or Corporations	15,333	9,000	8,000	8,000	Based on actual demands.
Contributions of officers lent to Foreign Service	27,728	20,000	30,000	20,000	
Contributions of persons employed by the Court of Wards	9,177	11,000	6,000	8,000	
Refunds of Gratuities	347	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	54,170	60,000	50,000	50,000	

XXIII.—Stationery and Printing—

Stationery receipts	1,173	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Sale of Gazettes and other publications	94,597	98,000	93,000	93,000	
Other press receipts	33,477	35,000	30,000	30,000	
Total ...	1,28,246	1,34,000	1,24,000	1,24,000	

XXV.—Miscellaneous—

Unclaimed deposits	2,61,005	2,90,000	2,98,000	2,70,000	This is a fluctuating item.
Treasure-trove	143	.....	.....	.....
Sale-proceeds of Durbar presents	5,418	12,000	5,000	10,000	The receipts in 1897-98 were high on account of sale-proceeds of articles purchased and temporary sheds erected in connection with famine relief operations. Based on the actual demand.
Sale of old stores and materials	47,284	45,000	90,000	45,000	
Sale of lands and houses, &c.	6,480	7,000	7,000	8,000	No provision has been made for the recoveries from Incorporated Local Funds which will be adjusted by deduction from the Provincial expenditure in a lump sum. Based on actual demand.
Fees for Government audits (of Municipal and Incorporated Local Funds)	80,000	70,000	44,000	45,000	
Contributions ... ..	.....	.....	80,000	70,000	The falling off is due chiefly to partition fees being now adjusted by reduction of charges instead of being credited to this head.
Rents	29,001	27,000	16,000	19,000	
Miscellaneous fees, fines and forfeitures	2,81,392	2,86,000	24,000	39,000	
Miscellaneous	1,00,000	1,51,000	60,000	81,000	
Total ...	9,13,936	9,83,000	6,78,000	6,94,000	

XXVI.—State Railways (Eastern Bengal State Railway System).—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Gross receipts	1,50,05,506	.....	.....	.....	These have been made im- perial from 1897-98, under the terms of the new provincial contract.
Working expenses	60,60,886	.....	.....	.....
Net receipts	89,05,100	.....	.....	.....
Provincial share (one-half)	44,52,550	.....	.....	.....

XXIX.—Irrigation.—Major Works—(District Receipts.)

Orissa Canals	4,74,217	4,40,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	The increase, in 1897-98 is for larger collections of water rates due to deficient rain- fall.
Midnapore Canal	2,70,757	2,33,000	2,65,000	2,65,000	
Hijili Tidal Canal	90,946	74,000	80,000	80,000	
Sone Canals	10,64,393	8,94,000	11,55,000	11,55,000	
Total	19,99,613	16,50,000	20,00,000	17,03,000	

XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department—

<i>Irrigation and Navigation Works.</i>					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept—					
Saran Canal	1,504	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	4,40,084	4,50,000	4,50,000	4,50,000	
Orissa Coast Canal	80,259	78,000	78,000	80,000	
Total	5,27,637	5,18,000	5,18,000	5,48,000	
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept—					
Nadia rivers	93,474	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	
Gaighatta and Buxi Khesi	5,820	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Total	97,294	1,04,000	1,04,000	1,24,000	
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—					
Eden Canal	37,001	33,000	33,000	37,000	
Tour Canal	100	.....	.....	.....
Total	37,101	33,000	33,000	37,000	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	6,02,112	6,55,000	6,55,000	7,09,000	
<i>Agricultural Works.</i>					
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept—					
Government embankments	6,155	4,000	4,000	5,000	
Takavi embankments under contract	5,974	1,000	1,000	3,000	
Total Agricultural Works	12,129	5,000	5,000	7,000	
GRAND TOTAL	6,74,241	6,60,000	6,60,000	7,16,000	

XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Civil Department—

Recoveries on account of samindari embankments under the contract system (on account of lands benefited by embankments)	1,26,720	1,03,000	1,03,000	1,03,000	The increase in the actual of 1896-97 was due to the reco- very of arrears in the district of Midnapore. Estimated by the Drainage Commissioners.
Recoveries on account of the Balapur drainage on account of capitalized maintenance charges .....	.....	5,000	22,000	19,000
Recoveries on account of capitalized maintenance charges of the Dankuni drainage	830	.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous receipts, Dankuni Canal	2,740	.....	.....	.....
Ditto ditto, Howrah drainage	6	3,000	5,000	5,000	
Ditto ditto, Rajapore drainage .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	1,32,996	1,16,000	1,31,000	1,37,000	

XXXII.—Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department—

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Total gross receipts	2,71,320	1,98,000	1,98,000	1,98,000	The actuals of 1896-97 include Rs. 86,607 being profits of the Calcutta Workshops, and Rs. 63,648, being the Government share of the surplus profits of Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for the year ending 30th June 1898.

XXXII.—Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department—

Tolls on ferries	2,43,088	2,50,000	2,17,000	2,45,000	These receipts are now credited under this head under orders of the Comptroller-General.
Cemetery receipts	3,101	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Rent of staging bungalow ... ..	.....	.....	11,000	11,000
Total ...	2,46,000	2,52,000	2,20,000	2,48,000	

APPENDIX B.

Bengal Provincial Expenditure in detail of minor heads.

[The figures in columns 4 and 5 are those accepted by the Government of India.]

1.—*Refunds and Drawbacks—*

HEADS.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Land Revenue (one-fourth)	25,720	14,000	14,000	16,000	Larger provision has been made owing to anticipated increase in revenue.
Stamp (three-fourths)	1,19,378	1,17,000	1,13,000	1,17,000	
Excise (one-half)	2,546	6,000	4,000	5,000	
Assessed taxes (one-half)	10,187	15,000	13,000	16,000	
Forest (one-half)	24	1,000	.....	.....
Registration (one-half)	1,475	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Provincial Rates	20,803	14,000	25,000	20,000	
Customs (other than Export and Import duty)	1,141	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Total	1,86,744	1,71,000	1,73,000	1,78,000	

2.—*Assignments and Compensations—*

Malikana	1,64,687	1,64,000	1,63,000	1,65,000	
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3.—*Land Revenue—*

Survey and Settlement	2,06,000	3,33,000	4,65,000	The increase in the revised estimates is due to larger outlay on the settlement operations in Chittagong. The saving under this head is nominal, being due to partition fees having been adjusted in reduction of charges instead of being credited to the head Miscellaneous as heretofore. Provision has been made for larger outlay on agricultural and sanitary improvements in Government estates.
Charges of District Administration	31,96,714	32,38,000	30,35,000	30,05,000	
Management of Government estates	4,39,063	4,60,000	4,37,000	4,96,000	
Land Records and Agriculture	96,815	77,000	77,000	84,000	
Total	37,80,591	44,71,000	43,85,000	40,49,000	

5.—*Salt—*

Salaries, Establishment and Contingencies	80,700	The charges have been made Imperial from 1897-98 under the terms of the new Provincial contract.
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6.—*Stamps.—*

Superintendence	83,987	83,000	83,000	86,000	Larger expenditure on contingencies.
Charges for the sale of general stamps	1,13,227	1,10,000	1,10,000	1,10,000	
Charges on sale of court-fee stamps	1,25,644	1,26,000	1,24,000	1,24,000	Larger estimate based on the anticipated increase in receipts.
Discount on plain paper	15,740	16,000	16,000	16,000	
Stamp paper supplied from Central Stores	2,36,853	2,87,000	3,51,000	2,74,000	Estimate of the Superintendent, Stamps and Stationery.
Total	6,75,350	7,02,000	6,85,000	7,14,000	
Provincial share—(three-fourths)	5,06,580	5,37,000	5,14,000	5,36,000	

7.—*Excise.—*

Superintendence	89,394	77,000	68,000	74,000	Full sanctioned scale of officers and establishment has been provided for under all the heads.
Presidency establishment	98,402	98,000	98,000	1,00,000	
District Executive establishment	2,69,157	3,81,000	3,78,000	3,80,000	
Distilleries	1,68,035	1,67,000	1,26,000	1,38,000	
Total	6,96,420	7,13,000	6,69,000	6,92,000	
Provincial share	1,74,105	3,57,000	3,75,000	3,46,000	

8.—Provincial Rates.—

HEAD.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Collection of rates and cesses		85,000	86,500	86,500	The decrease is due to the charge for the cost of collection being calculated on the scale fixed in 1879.
Valuation and revaluation work		34,000	23,500	22,500	
Total	74,804	1,19,040	60,000	59,000	

9.—Customs.—

Calcutta	7,17,083	7,55,700		7,53,300	Full sanctioned scale of officers and establishments has been provided for.
Balasore	6,448	7,000		7,000	
Chittagong	26,817	26,300		27,700	
Cuttack	7,808	7,800		7,800	
Dacca	1,008	700		800	
Puri	1,400	1,500		1,500	
Total	7,60,253	8,00,000	7,80,000	7,97,000	

10.—Assessed Taxes.—

Collection of Income tax	1,82,442	1,93,000	1,80,000	1,92,000	The decrease in 1896-97 was due to the permanent Collector of Calcutta being on deputation, and the Officiating Officer drawing lower pay.
Provincial share (one-half)	91,221	96,000	88,000	90,000	

11.—Forest.—

A.—Conservancy and Works.					
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency	2,37,630	1,81,800		19,000	The decrease is mainly due to the cessation of sleeper operations in the Singhbhum Division.
Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers	56,717	65,300		62,000	
Confiscated, drift and waif wood	1,872	2,800		2,800	Include Rs. 6,000 for a portable trainway in the Darjeeling Division and Rs. 14,000 for the construction of two headquarters bungalows, works which had to be deferred in 1897-98.
Live-stock, stores, tools and plant	10,307	11,100		10,900	
Communications and buildings	80,843	82,400		82,200	
Demarcation, improvement and extension of forests	35,756	43,000		41,600	
Miscellaneous	1,023	2,700		2,300	
Total A—Conservancy and Works	4,08,448	3,69,800		3,21,000	
B.—Establishments.					
Salaries	2,33,309	2,68,600		2,65,600	Increase due to (1) to the re-organisation scheme which will now be fully worked up to, (2) to more officers being on duty throughout the year, and (3) to the filling up of vacancies in the class of Extra Assistant Conservators.
Travelling allowances	87,617	86,900		85,400	
Contingencies	15,798	11,700		12,800	
Total B—Establishments	3,36,724	3,67,200		3,64,000	
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPENDITURE	6,90,042	7,07,000	6,28,000	5,55,000	
Provincial share (one-half)	3,43,021	3,53,000	3,13,000	2,77,000	

12.—Registration—

Superintendence	81,743	87,000	84,000	85,000	The savings in 1897-98 are due to smaller outlay on travelling allowances. Increase due to larger expenditure on commission to Rural Sub-Registrars.
District charges	8,00,615	8,16,000	8,21,000	8,32,000	
Total	8,52,358	8,73,000	8,75,000	8,87,000	
Provincial share (one-half)	4,26,179	4,37,000	4,38,000	4,44,000	

13.—Interest on Ordinary Debt—

HEAD.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Interest on Provincial advance and loan account ...	2,14,676	2,15,000	2,25,000	2,42,000	Both the revised estimate for 1897-98 and the estimate for 1898-99 are based on the estimated mean outstanding balance of loans carrying interest at 3½ per cent.

15.—Post Office—

Conveyance of Mails, South Lushai Hills ...	2,906	6,300	2,000	No estimate is necessary owing to the transfer of the South Lushai Administration to Assam from the 1st April 1898.
Pak establishment ...	2,113	2,100	2,000	2,000	
Lump deductions ...	.....	(—) 100	.....	.....
Total ...	4,919	10,000	5,000	2,000	

18.—General Administration—

Salary of Lieutenant-Governor ...	96,304	99,000	1,07,000	96,000	The excess in 1897-98 is due to acting arrangement during the absence on leave of the permanent Lieutenant-Governor.
Staff and household of Lieutenant-Governor ...	31,953	34,000	37,000	34,600	
Tour expenses ...	32,360	34,000	34,000	34,000	The increase in 1897-98 is due to privilege leave arrangements and to larger expenditure on allowances and contingencies owing to increase of work in connection with famine.
Legislative Council ...	27,007	26,000	25,000	26,000	
Civil Secretariats ...	5,62,412	5,77,000	5,90,000	5,60,000	
Board of Revenue Commissioners ...	2,80,938	2,88,000	2,70,000	2,85,000	The increase in 1898-99 is due to provision having been made for an additional Commissioner for the full year, for the construction of a new steamer for the Commissioner of Chittagong at a cost of Rs. 40,000 and for larger outlay on contingencies.
Civil Offices of Account and Audit ...	6,17,472	5,94,000	5,77,000	6,35,000	
Total ...	74,676	76,000	83,000	80,000	The decrease from 1897-98 is nominal and is due to audit fees received from Incorporated Local Funds being adjusted by reduction of charges.
Total ...	17,56,921	17,28,000	17,03,000	17,24,000	

19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law—

High Court ...	11,64,207	11,64,000	11,64,000	11,59,000	The excess in 1897-98 is chiefly for grain compensation allowance and partly for larger expenditure on remuneration to copyists, travelling expenses of witnesses, and process-serving charges.
Law Officers ...	3,34,607	3,16,000	3,14,000	3,37,000	
Coroner's Court ...	6,034	7,000	7,000	8,000	
Presidency Magistrates, &c. ...	65,298	65,000	64,000	64,000	
Civil and Sessions Courts ...	47,31,289	46,63,000	47,90,000	47,13,000	Ditto ditto.
Courts of Small Causes ...	1,71,716	1,77,000	1,67,000	1,72,000	
Criminal Courts ...	23,84,003	24,21,000	24,57,000	24,15,000	
Prisoners Examination Charges ...	16,023	14,000	10,000	10,000	
Refunds ...	89,903	1,10,000	85,000	90,000	Lump addition for increase to the pay of peons ...
Lump addition for increase to the pay of peons ...	.....	5,000	.....	.....
Total ...	89,62,640	89,42,000	90,60,000	89,73,000	

19B.—Jails.

Jails—					The increases in 1896-97 and 1897-98 were due to the high prices of food-grains.
Superintendence ...	59,189	57,000		54,000	
Establishments ...	4,47,265	5,11,000		5,02,000	
Dietary Charges ...	7,20,066	8,00,000		5,31,000	
Hospital Charges ...	74,272	79,000		76,000	Larger provision has been made for the purchase of raw materials.
Clothing and Bedding of Prisoners ...	87,002	95,000		80,000	
Sanitation Charges ...	24,877	18,000		31,000	
Charges for moving Prisoners ...	62,370	47,000		61,000	
Miscellaneous Services and Supplies ...	1,02,389	1,27,000		1,13,000	
Allowances ...	16,678	8,000		10,000	
Contingent Charges ...	34,201	42,000		43,000	
Extraordinary Charges for Live-Stock and Tools and Plant ...	23,427	32,000		18,000	
Total Jails ...	17,13,806	14,91,000		15,28,000	
Jail Manufactures ...	8,77,185	7,38,000		8,32,000	
Refunds ...	681	
GRAND TOTAL ...	25,91,672	22,32,000	25,00,000	23,60,000	

20.—Police—

HEAD.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Presidency Police	7,68,301	7,63,000	7,66,000	7,68,000	The excess in 1897-98 is chiefly due to the grant of grain compensation allowance and partly to temporary police being employed in connection with the plague and famine.
Municipal	43,082	43,000	48,000	44,500	
Superintendence	1,65,903	1,62,000	1,59,000	1,59,000	
District Executive Force	46,36,900	44,92,000	48,11,000	46,91,000	
Village Police	20,206	20,000	20,000	20,000	The increase in 1898-99 is due to provision being made for the introduction of the village police system under Act VI (B.C.) of 1870 into Orissa.
Special	4,55,383	5,00,000	4,06,000	1,16,500	Decrease in 1897-98 was due to reorganization of the South Lushai Hills Police force and smaller outlay on transport and commissariat charges. The decrease in 1898-99 is due to the transfer of the South Lushai Hills to the Assam Administration from the 1st April 1898.
Railway	1,20,440	1,20,000	1,22,000	1,22,500	
Outfit-pounds	4,237	5,000	4,000	5,000	
Upper Burma Police Charges	12,321	20,000	14,000	14,000	
Refunds	2,737	0,000	3,000	3,000	
Lump addition for increase to the pay of peons		2,000			
Deduct for rounding				58,97,500	(—) 500
TOTAL	62,19,099	61,18,000	61,62,000	58,97,000	

21.—Marine—

Salaries and allowances of officers and men afloat	74,398	70,000	68,000	60,000	The excess expenditure in 1897-98 was due to larger expenditure on pilotage allowance to free list pilots, which varies according to the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the ports.
Victualling of officers and men afloat	18,685	25,000	20,000	23,000	
Purchase of marine stores and coal for the building, repairs, and outfit of ships and vessels	76,476	90,000	71,000	80,000	
Purchase and hire of ships and vessels	12,321	20,000	12,000	20,000	
Pilotage, pilot establishments, and vessels	6,38,490	5,57,000	6,00,000	5,57,000	A grant of Rs. 24,000 was made to the Balasore Port Fund in 1896-97, while Rs. 12,500 was granted in 1897-98. In 1898-99 no grant is necessary.
Marine establishments	88,176	93,000	85,000	84,000	
Subsidies to steam-boat companies	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Miscellaneous	50,947	40,000	30,000	29,800	
State Yacht establishment	4,500	5,700	6,000	5,700	Provision for a light for the Kutubdia Light-house at Chittagong, to be indented for from England.
Light-house and Light-ships				12,000	
Refunds	543	300		500	
Total	8,78,082	9,11,000	9,21,000	8,91,000	

22.—Education—

Direction	86,596	66,000	67,000	67,000	Increases are for the reorganization of the Education Department.
Inspection	2,31,741	3,28,000	3,54,000	3,63,000	
Government Colleges, General	6,24,192	5,12,000	5,23,000	5,25,000	The provision for the Agricultural class and for apparatus for the mining course has been repeated.
Ditto Professional	1,74,575	1,78,000	1,64,000	1,86,000	
Government Schools, General	8,77,240	5,70,000	5,93,000	6,50,000	Provision has been made for the Kurseong Girls' Boarding school, and for larger outlay on boarding charges in the Kurseong Boys' School.
Ditto Special	1,64,945	1,08,000	1,67,000	1,96,000	Provision has been made in 1898-99 for a workshop for the Dacca Survey School.
Grants-in-aid	6,26,378	6,00,000	6,28,000	6,00,000	Increase due to provision having been made for boarding charges of the Eden Hindu Hostel and for examination charges of schools under the control of the Inspector of European Schools.
Scholarships	1,91,266	1,88,000	1,96,000	1,90,000	
Miscellaneous	64,828	60,000	60,000	1,10,000	
Refunds	435	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Lump addition (for the introduction of the reorganization scheme of the educational services and for increase in the pay of peons)		20,000			
Total	27,41,086	27,40,000	27,80,000	28,97,000	

24.—Medical—

HEAD.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Medical Establishment	7,00,810	6,95,000	6,74,000	7,01,000	Saving in 1897-98 is due to deputation of officers on military and famine duties. There is less outlay on clothing of patients, contingencies, &c., in 1897-98. Saving in 1897-98 is owing to absence of officers on deputation. Increase in 1897-98 is due to heavy expenditure for the prevention of plague. A provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made for such expenditure in 1898-99. There is a decrease in 1897-98, chiefly under Salaries. Larger provision has been made for raw materials for manufacture.
Hospitals and Dispensaries	4,62,178	5,14,000	4,76,000	5,15,000	
Sanitation and Vaccination	2,01,236	2,23,000	1,84,000	2,04,000	
Grants for medical purposes	50,296	7,000	1,40,000	63,000	
Medical Schools and Colleges	3,12,720	3,11,000	3,00,000	3,11,000	There is a decrease in 1897-98, chiefly under Salaries. Larger provision has been made for raw materials for manufacture.
Lunatic Asylums	1,35,963	1,21,000	1,21,000	1,39,000	
Special Hospitals	12,094	17,000	14,000	15,000	
Chemical Examiner	25,270	29,000	27,000	31,000	
Refunds	7,098	1,000	2,000	2,000	
Total	19,40,398	19,18,000	19,58,000	19,70,000	

25.—Political—

Entertainment of Envoys and Chiefs ... ..	.....	2,000	.....	2,000	Provision made to meet charges that may be incurred in 1898-99. The actuals of 1896-97 include charges on account of presents bought in 1895-96. The estimate for 1898-99 excludes charges for the South Lushai Hills.
Durbars presents and allowances to vakils, &c.	17,177	14,000	14,000	14,000	
Miscellaneous	4,440	9,000	5,000	3,000	
Total	21,617	25,000	19,000	19,000	

26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments—

Provincial Museums	20,134	17,000	18,000	19,000	The estimates for 1897-98 and 1898-99 include Rs. 1,000 for the Buddhist Text Society.
Imperial Institute	303	500	1,000	500	
Donations to Scientific Societies	14,000	16,000	14,000	16,000	
Experimental cultivation	11,548	15,000	12,000	14,000	
Cinchona plantation	1,62,215	1,73,000	1,72,000	1,73,000	Increase of pay of lecturers and employment of additional establishment and provision for boarding charges of students. Decrease due to the lower rate of salary to the new Superintendent of the Botanic Garden.
Public Exhibitions and Fairs	2,044	2,000	1,000	2,500	
Veterinary and Stallion Charges	20,260	23,000	25,000	24,800	
Botanic and other Public Gardens	1,22,116	1,24,100	1,25,000	1,21,500	
Emigration	23,824	24,400	25,000	24,100	
Inspector of Factories	24,719	22,200	21,000	22,400	
Census	1,457	2,000	2,000	1,500	
Registration of Railway and Road-borne Traffic	7,333	6,700	9,000	6,400	
Registration of River-borne Traffic	17,753	17,000	17,000	17,300	
Provincial Statistics	2,454	2,500	2,000	2,600	
Inspector of Explosives	1,502	2,100	2,000	2,100	
Examinations... ..	4,127	4,500	5,000	5,500	
Refunds	1,142	1,000	1,000	600	
Miscellaneous... ..	2,747	4,000	4,000	2,000	
Total	4,42,538	4,55,000	4,54,000	4,65,000	

29.—Superannuations—

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	10,94,931	19,42,000	20,00,000	20,42,000	The increase is due to sanction of new pensions in excess of lapses which were not fully provided for in the budget for 1897-98.
Ditto of Establishment for management of private Estates	227				
Compassionate Allowances	16,833	22,000	22,000	22,000	
Gratuities	5,393	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Marine Department Pensions ... ..	.....	57,000	48,000	49,000	
Total	10,18,383	20,38,000	20,68,000	21,30,000	

43—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Public Works Department.

HEAD.	Actuals, 1890-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
IRRIGATION AND NAVIGATION WORKS.					
<i>Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.</i>					
CAPITAL.					
<i>Works in progress.</i>					
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	4,54,398	3,78,000	3,88,000	1,38,800	This is for the Bhagore Khat improvement project.
Midnapore Canal	6,060	.....	4,504	.....
Hijli Tidal Canal	30,382	.....	300	.....
Orissa Coast Canal	30,278	18,000	18,075	14,200	
Orissa Canals	8, 96	1,300	49, 89	1,14,000	The revised estimate for 1897-98, includes a provision of Rs. 1,05,000 for the transfer of the stock of the Behri Work-shops from 49, Imperial to this head.
None Project	10,678	18,700	1,31,400	18,700	
Damodar Project	(-)-1,200	.....	.....	.....
Total Capital	5,29,767	4,17,000	5,96,468	2,84,300	
REVENUE.					
Orissa Coast Canal	84,155	61,000	58,302	73,000	
Calcutta and Eastern Canals	2,28,178	1,80,000	1,85,548	1,71,000	
Saran project	11,098	1,300	4,800	10,000	
Total Revenue	3,24,361	2,61,300	2,62,550	2,63,000	
Total Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept	8,54,128	6,68,300	8,61,018	5,37,300	
<i>Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.</i>					
WORKS IN PROGRESS.					
Nadja rivers	1,23,289	1,10,000	1,16,000	1,29,000	
Gaighatia and Buxi khals	659	1,200	1,200	1,300	
Total Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept	1,23,948	1,20,000	1,18,800	1,30,300	
<i>Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.</i>					
WORKS IN PROGRESS.					
Eden Canal	1,08,013	73,000	73,217	49,500	
Madhubani Canal	5,711				
Champaran Canal	9,188				
Total Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept	1,23,903	73,000	73,217	49,500	
Total Irrigation and Navigation Works	11,01,038	8,60,500	10,54,125	7,17,100	
AGRICULTURAL AND DRAINAGE WORKS.					
<i>Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.</i>					
WORKS IN PROGRESS.					
Government embankments and works for the improvement of Government and secheated estates	4,73,280	6,64,500	6,82,730	7,68,900	The revised estimate includes a grant of Rs. 30,000 for the repair of the Kutubdia embankments in the Chittagong Division.
Takavi embankments	2,03,910				
Total Agricultural	6,77,170	6,64,500	6,82,730	7,68,900	
Total 43.—Minor Works and Navigation	17,78,108	15,25,000	17,43,855 or 17,44,000 in round numbers.	16,83,000	

43.—Minor Works and Navigation in charge of the Civil Department.

HEAD.	Actuals, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Estimate, 1898-99.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Subsidiaries under the contract system—					
Establishments	1,462	1,452	1,600	1,452	Increase due to the establish- ment charges of the Rajapore Drainage Scheme recently capitalized.
Contingencies	47	148			
Maintenance charges of the Rajapore and Howrah drainages .. .. .	.....	4,000	2,400	11,844	
Maintenance charges of the Dankuni and Howrah drainages	2,472	2,400			
Travelling allowance	817	.....		
Compensation for dearth of provisions	9	.....	.....	.....
Deduct for rounding				13,344	
Total	4,911	8,000	4,000	13,000	

45.—Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.

Original Works	17,48,757	16,44,034	11,16,000	12,27,000	Increase due to repairing of damages caused by earth- quake.
Repairs	9,50,000	9,95,000	11,00,000	11,00,000	
Establishment	7,40,163	8,85,900	8,80,000	8,46,776	
Tools and Plant	2,375	25,000	17,000	20,225	
Suspense	57,38	.....	.....	.....
Total	35,24,675	32,50,000	29,75,000	32,06,000	

45.—Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department.

Ferry charges	17,442	10,000	}	34,200	Transferred to Assam from 1st April 1898.
Refunds of ferry tolls	25,601	23,800			
Contributions to Excluded Local Funds and Municipalities	(a) 61,427	50,000	}	48,000	
Public Works, South Lushai Hills	5,495	50,428			
Ditto, Angul	(a) 1,06,160	.....	}	12,800
Other Public Works	.....	.....	
Staging bungalows and encamping grounds	.....	.....	
		1,85,928			
Deduct for rounding		228			
Total	3,04,375	1,86,000	1,29,000	90,000	

(a) Included under Other Public Works.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. RISLEY moved that the Bill to amend the law relating to the Municipal affairs of the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, and to authorize the extension of the same to the town of Howrah, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerjee, Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, the Hon'ble Mr. Buckley, the Hon'ble Sahibzada Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner, the Hon'ble Babu Norendra Nath Sen, the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Spink and the Mover.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN said:—"When asking for leave to introduce the present Bill in Council, the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, with a view to explain the necessity for an amendment of Act II of 1888, pointed out how during the nine years the Act has been in force 'it has given rise to more doubt and difficulty as to its construction and operation than any Act that has been passed by this Council. It has been condemned on material points by the courts, by the many learned Counsel who have advised on its interpretation, and by most of the officers who have had to do with its working.' So far, there is hardly any difference of opinion, and I am prepared to give my cordial support to a Bill which seeks to remove the uncertainties and supply the deficiencies of the Act, and to give the

Corporation and the Calcutta public, in its place, a well-considered and effective Code with clear and unambiguous provisions.

"I regret, however, that the present Bill goes much further, and seeks to introduce radical changes in the constitution of the Municipality which are of a distinctly retrograde character, and entirely subversive of the principles of Local Self-Government in the Municipal Administration of Calcutta.

"In fact, Sir, I do not think that a measure of a more reactionary and revolutionary character has ever been introduced in this Council, and not only the Indian rate-payers of this city, but also all Indian inhabitants outside the limits of Calcutta, have been struck with dismay and consternation, and there is quite a panic among them. I am not in the least exaggerating the popular feeling on the subject. With all the pains that the Executive Government has taken to find a plea for the justification of its action in moving the Legislature in this matter, I submit, Sir, that not a shadow of a case has been made out against the Calcutta Municipal Corporation for striking a blow at its constitutional independence. So far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, I may be pardoned for characterising the measure as a great mistake. It is unnecessary, unjust, and uncalled-for. Nearly fifteen months have been spent in rummaging the old records of the Corporation to justify the present legislation. The plague, which is answerable for many of the ills from which India has been suffering for nearly two years, came in, in time, to strengthen the hands of the Government. And here we are now in the midst of a crisis, such as has not visited Calcutta during the whole period of its municipal history. There would have been some intelligent reason for the proposed measure if it had been preceded by a visible deterioration of health or an exceptional kind of unhealthiness in the city, or by a well-grounded agitation against the administration of our municipal affairs. But we see no such thing. The present Bill is introduced on the mere assumption that 'Calcutta is in a terribly insanitary condition.'

"At the present stage of the Bill, I have no intention to make any reference to the details of the measure, some of which are open to grave objection, and will prove greatly oppressive to the rate-payers. These are matters which can more fitly, and with greater advantage, be discussed at a later stage.

"Originally the town was divided into a small number of wards. Each ward elected its own Commissioner, who received a monthly salary of Rs. 250. The elected Commissioners, generally one European and three Indians, took their morning rounds daily to satisfy themselves of the condition of the roads and drains. This system was replaced by a Government triumvirate, consisting of the Commissioner of Police as Chairman, the Surveyor-General of Calcutta, and a whole-time Vice-Chairman who conducted the Municipal Administration of the city up to the year 1863, when the Corporation was constituted under a body of Justices, appointed by Government. In 1876 the Corporation was reconstituted on an elective basis, two-thirds of its members being elected by the rate-payers, and the remaining third being nominated direct by Government. In the legislation of 1888, the proportion of Commissioners, elected by the rate-payers, remained the same, but the Government conceded to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta 'Trades' Association and the Port Commissioners the privilege of electing two-fifths of the one-third to be nominated by Government.

"The success of the elective system, introduced in 1876, was made the basis for demanding an extension of the elective element in the Corporation, when the present Act was before the Council, for giving the Commissioners a voice in the appointment and removal of their Chairman, and for larger powers and greater independence in other matters, and although all the privileges asked for were not granted, some substantial concessions were made, and, among other things, the privilege of fixing the pay of the Chairman within certain limits, as also of demanding his removal from office, was granted to the Commissioners. On the whole, the policy of the Legislature in this matter has been liberal and progressive.

"During the last twenty-one years or so that the present system of Municipal Government has been in force, immense improvements in various directions have been carried out; the old complaint of chronic financial embarrassment

has entirely disappeared under the wise and judicious administration of the Commissioners, and in spite of the enormous outlay on works of improvement and the extension of the drainage system and of water-supply, both filtered and unfiltered, the finances of the Corporation during the last few years have never been in a more prosperous state, nor did its credit ever stand any higher than in the last few years.

"It is very much to be regretted that just at the very time, when the system of Municipal Self-Government in Calcutta has been working smoothly and efficiently, and when the successful result of its working has shown itself in various directions, that this most objectionable legislative measure should be introduced in this Council. Authoritative testimony has been concurrent as to the good work done by the Corporation under the present elective system. It is useless for me to refer to the decided testimony, borne by the Sanitary Commission, appointed under Section 28 of Act IV (B. U.) of 1876 to enquire into certain matters connected with the sanitation of Calcutta, that 'real and solid progress has been made' by the Corporation in the path of sanitary improvement; or to what was said by Dr. Kenneth Macleod some years ago, that 'to sight and sense Calcutta has, within living memory, undergone a revolution,' and that the policy of the Corporation has been attended with 'gradual and progressive reform.' I am afraid, that the initiation of the present measure is due more to a misapprehension of the actual state of things than to anything else, for it is well known to those who can speak from personal knowledge and experience that the truth is, that if the Municipal Government has in this city suffered now and then, it is because of the apathy and negligence of the Executive. Many of the shortcomings of the Corporation, as set forth in the letter of the Government of Bengal, dated the 7th March, 1898, to the Government of India, rightly belong to the Municipal Executive, but they are sought to be laid on wrong shoulders. I think, Sir, that it is not right to make the Corporation responsible for any imperfections, unless it is empowered to appoint and remove its executive officers. At present it is impotent, in many instances, to enforce its orders. The Commissioners are now unjustly held responsible for what is the result of the *incompetence* or negligence of their executive officers. In many instances, the executive officers require watching and control, so that they may be kept up to the work. Already the Municipal Executive possess large powers, and it is not at all desirable that those powers should be increased still further. And yet the Bill seeks to throw larger powers into the hands of the Executive. This is the most objectionable feature in the Bill, and I strongly protest against it. The powers, possessed by the Executive, are so large indeed, that some of the former Chairmen of the Corporation were looked upon as nothing short of autocrats. When the existing Act was passing through the Council, there was great opposition to the proposed enlargement of the powers of the Executive. For the proper working of the Corporation, it is desirable that its executive officers should be made as little independent of it as possible, except in the matter of details.

"The irregular proceedings of the Municipal Executive in many matters have become a bye-word among the inhabitants of this city. The Executive have failed repeatedly in the discharge of their most important duties, and to place larger powers in their hands would be most dangerous. Indeed, I contend that the Executive have not shown that they are fit to be entrusted with still more extensive powers. It is a vicious system which obtains in Calcutta to combine administrative, executive, and deliberative functions in one and the same person, who happens to be the head of the Municipal Executive, when such person is answerable to the Commissioners for many things done by him in his executive capacity. Such a system does not exist at least in Bombay. It is a strange anomaly that the Calcutta Municipal Chairman should be allowed to preside over meetings, called to judge of the shortcomings of the executive officers, of which he is the head. The Municipal Commissioners in consequence not unoften feel powerless to cope with many evils. No city probably suffered more from giving extensive powers to the head of the Municipal Executive as Bombay before 1872. 'Before that time,' to quote the words of *Macleod's Guide to Bombay* for the current year, 'the municipal

administration had been conducted by a Commissioner and the Bench of Justices; but the powers of the Commissioner were so extensive that he became practically irresponsible, and though he did excellent service to Bombay, he expended the rate-payers' money so lavishly, that in 1871 something like a popular revolution was accomplished, and the Government felt itself compelled to create a new municipality in which the rate-payers themselves should by their representatives have an authoritative voice.' The instance of Bombay, I think, ought to be a sufficient warning to Calcutta, and to put us upon our guard against the abuses which always result from absolutism. For, practically, the Bill gives absolute powers to the Municipal Chairman, subject to the control of what I should call a packed General Committee of twelve members. If the Bill be passed into law, we shall simply revert to the 'good old rule, the simple plan' of absolutism, which prevailed in Bombay at one time, and proved the ruin of that city. I cannot too much dwell on the magnitude of the injustice of extending the large powers, already possessed by the Executive, when such powers have shown a frequent liability to be abused.

"The Commissioners, as a body, and also individually here and there, have probably many shortcomings to answer for, but their worst enemies cannot deny that theirs is a record of work which any body of administrators may very well look back upon with pride and satisfaction. On the whole, I maintain that the Commissioners have deserved well of Government and the Calcutta public, for the success of their administration, which is in no small measure due to the time and energy, devoted by individual Commissioners, unstintingly and ungrudgingly, and in many cases at considerable personal sacrifice, towards the work of the town. One might naturally have expected that when this Council next undertook the revision of the existing Act, it would show its appreciation of the work, done by the Corporation, by an extension of the principles of Self-Government both in the constitution of the Corporation and in the powers conferred upon it. It is sad and disheartening to find that the Government has come forward with condemnation of the Commissioners, instead of thanks, and with proposals to practically destroy self-government instead of extending it.

"The Bill treats, I am sorry to find, with scant courtesy that element in the Corporation which has hitherto been the most predominant and most useful element in it, and which has contributed so greatly to the success of Municipal Self-Government in Calcutta, and made it more a reality than a name. What has it done, that it should be practically kept out of the proposed General Committee of 12, and why should that particular element, which has hitherto done the least for the Corporation or for the rate-payers, be allowed to have a potential voice in the deliberations of the General Committee? One of the noblest magnificent boons that England has conferred upon India is Local Self-Government, and since its introduction into this city, the Indians have shown themselves to be in earnest in exercising fully and freely all rights of citizenship, accorded to them by law, and in making municipal institutions a reality in Calcutta. Whether in Bombay or in Calcutta, the Europeans have not cared to trouble themselves much about municipal affairs, or to take ordinary pains even to be represented on the Corporation. Not only have the European wards failed to return to the Corporation European Commissioners to represent their interests, but some of these wards have even sometimes failed to elect any Commissioners at all; and in such cases the Government has stepped in, and by reason of default on the part of those wards, nominated, under the law, fit persons to represent them, at the expiration of the time, allowed by the Act. I distinctly remember one such instance in which about 17 years ago, Dr. Cayley and my friend, Maulvi Mohamed Yusuf, Khan Bahadur, were nominated by Government to seats on the Municipal Board by reason of default on the part of wards Nos. 15 and 16. I do not know, Sir, on what principle of justice such treatment, as is contemplated by the Bill, should be meted out to the Indians who have done so much to further the cause of Municipal Self-Government in Calcutta. If the Europeans have not been such a strong element in the Corporation, it is their own fault. If they have been in a minority, there is no help for it. And what the Bill in effect seeks is to enable a minority to control a majority. If the voters of Calcutta have elected so many Hindu Commissioners, it is because they have preferred them to others,

and it is because the Hindus form numerically the largest ratio of the population, that is over two-thirds of it. It is better by far that the semblance of free institutions we have got in Calcutta should be altogether swept away than that there should be such legislative interference as to restrain and hamper the elective system so much. People look upon the present measure as a sort of class legislation, trying to introduce the domination of a minority over a vast majority, though the minority may have no abiding interest in the city. No one would deny the importance of the commercial and trading interests, so far as the municipal administration of Calcutta is concerned. The Indian Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta have been always too glad of the help and co-operation of their European colleagues. The energy and zeal of some of the European Commissioners have contributed much to the sanitary improvement of the city, and to the merciless exposure of many irregularities of the Executive. The obligations of the Indian inhabitants of Calcutta to the local non-official European community are as great as they are numerous. Whatever of political life the Indian inhabitants of this city have acquired, they owe chiefly to their non-official European fellow-subjects. They know, too, that they can carry out many municipal reforms effectually and promptly with the assistance of their European friends. But it is their misfortune that they have fallen upon evil times, that they do not often get such assistance as they did in the past. The fact is that the present generation of non-official Europeans are too much engaged in their own business to be able to give any portion of their time and attention to public affairs. These are days of keen competition in the commercial and trading world. The Bill proposes to tempt them from their work by offering a fee of Rs. 32 for attendance at each meeting of the General Committee. But this will hardly be a sufficient inducement to the higher class of Europeans. And so the proposed measure will fail in its object in this respect, while it will have the appearance of importing a race question, for the obvious object of the measure is to break the preponderance of the Hindu element in the Corporation. I know, that the great sin of the Corporation is its Hindu majority, and, however useful work the elected Hindu Commissioners may have done since the year 1876, they are at present the best abused men in the city, for whom no sneer or ridicule is too bitter or scathing.

"The present Bill seeks to reduce the Corporation to a nullity by depriving it of all powers of control which it has exercised during all these years, to the eminent advantage of the administration, while it concentrates all powers in the Executive and a committee of twelve, on which the representatives of the rate-payers would be in a standing and hopeless minority, and makes them to a certain extent independent of each other, and answerable to none. Nothing can be surer than this, that if the Bill be passed into law in its present shape, the popular element in the administration of the town, with all its safeguards against Executive high-handedness and extravagance, would entirely disappear, and give place to a system of administration which would be a curious admixture of despotism and oligarchy with all the attendant dangers of both.

"The explanation of the attitude, taken up by Government in this matter, was shadowed forth in your speech, Sir, at the opening of the current session, and has since been given in an amplified form in the speech of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, when asking for leave to introduce it in Council, and in the published correspondence between the Governments of India and Bengal on the subject of the present Bill.

"From an examination of these, it appears that, in the opinion of the Government of Bengal, the Municipality has no constitution, that 'everything is fluid and indefinite'; that it is 'impossible to say in what part of the system the Executive resides, or indeed whether there is any Executive at all'; that there was 'a complete breakdown of the conservancy of the town at a critical period' (referring obviously to the autumn of 1896, when the plague first appeared in Bombay), 'and serious confusion in many other departments of the municipal administration without the possibility of determining with any approach to certainty where the responsibility for such a state of things lies.'

"The proposed remedy for all these evils is to define the powers of the Executive, which means to vest in the Chairman almost all powers which under the express provisions of the present Act the Chairman can exercise on behalf of

the Commissioners, subject to the possibility of their revision and control, and thus make him accountable to no one; and others, including almost all those which, under the present Act, are reserved to the Commissioners-in-meeting, in a Committee of 12, of which two-thirds would be nominated by Government, and by the European mercantile and trading community, and the Port Commissioners; while only the remaining third will represent the rate-payers. Leaving out the general body of the Corporation which, if the present Bill be passed into law, would be of no account, this Committee of 12 would, for all practical purposes, be the governing body, and supply the place, occupied by the general body of the Corporation under the present Act; and by this Bill it is now sought to reduce the proportion of elected members from two-thirds to one-third, and increase the proportion of the nominated Commissioners from one-third to two-thirds.

"Now, let us examine the position a little carefully. Under the present Act, the Chairman has certain powers reserved to him. Certain powers are vested in the Commissioners, and certain powers are reserved to the Commissioners-in-meeting. Under the express provisions of law, all powers, vested in the Commissioners, can be exercised by the Chairman.

"But he cannot act in opposition to, or in contravention of, any orders, passed by the Commissioners-in-meeting, and if any order, already passed by him, is brought before a Meeting, and modified or disapproved, he has to modify or cancel his action accordingly.

"The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill sums up these provisions in the following words:—'The Chairman, as such, has virtually no powers under the Act. Whatever he does, he does on sufferance with the knowledge that the power he has ventured to use, may be withdrawn from him by a Resolution, or that the action which he has presumed to take may be upset with retrospective effect,' and suggests by implication that if in these circumstances the Chairman is apathetic or inactive, he has good reasons on his side. Now, I maintain that this is not a fair summary of the situation at all. This would practically amount to saying that a person cannot exercise any powers, unless he is to be made absolutely unaccountable to any one. Such a proposition would be preposterous. Where are the grounds for assuming that the Commissioners are a set of perverse men, who cannot be trusted with powers of control with judicious discretion? Where are the instances of reckless and irresponsible exercise of the powers of control, and in the face of the protests of the Chairman?

"Far better it would be for the rate-payers and residents of the town that the Municipality should be administered as a department of Government as it was before 1863, rather than its government should be made over to a handful of men, accountable to no one for their actions.

"The present Act has been in force for nine years. There have been three Chairmen during the first seven years of this period—the late Sir Henry Harrison, the late Mr. Harry Lee and Mr. Ritchie. Not one of them ever complained of the reckless interference of the Commissioners, so as to seriously hamper executive action. They worked with the Commissioners generally in a spirit of harmony, and there was no complaint. During the next two years there have been two Chairmen—Mr. Williams and Mr. Bright. Neither of them was sufficiently long at the head of affairs to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the work. Moreover, they were both in indifferent health, and have been obliged to go on furlough within a short time of their appointments to the office on the score of failing health, and if these gentlemen or any of them have thought fit to complain of the undue interference of the Commissioners, such complaints ought to be rated at their proper value, and not allowed to override the opinion of equally able, if not abler, men, who have been longer connected with the administration of the Municipality.

"The next point which requires consideration, is what has been said about the breakdown of the conservancy of the town at a critical moment, and the existence of serious confusion in many other departments of the municipal administration without the possibility of determining where the responsibility lies. With the utmost deference to your opinion, Sir, I would submit that it would be quite possible to fix the responsibility on proper investigation, and I am strongly of opinion that in justice to the Commissioners, as well as in the best interests of the town, such an investigation ought to have preceded

any legislation for providing a remedy for the state of things referred to by Government in this Council. It is my duty to tell you, Sir, with the utmost emphasis at my command, that there is a very strong feeling among the Commissioners that they have been condemned unheard.

"Without alluding in detail to the different departments in which confusion is said to have prevailed, I need only say that, in the absence of any proof to the contrary, it is obviously the Executive alone which must be held responsible for such confusion. To the credit of the Commissioners, it should be said, and borne in mind, that it was mainly through their efforts, and sometimes, in spite of the obstructiveness of the Executive, that attention has from time to time been drawn to irregularities and malpractices in different departments of the Corporation. It was the Commissioners who unearthed the irregularities in the Collector's Department and in the License Department many years ago, and reorganised those departments. In recent years, the irregularities and malpractices in the Workshops, and in the Warrant Department, have been brought to light, through the exertion of the Commissioners, and even at the present moment, a strong Committee is now engaged in making enquiries with reference to certain allegations which, if substantiated, would prove that serious irregularities, if nothing worse, have prevailed in one of the spending departments of the Municipality, involving heavy loss of rate-payers' money. The executive heads naturally dislike enquiries by Committees, as when irregularities and malpractices are eventually established, they indirectly reflect on the want of proper supervision by the executive heads. As I have already said, instances are not rare in which the Executive have supplied the brake-power, and the Commissioners had to supply the motive-power, in bringing departmental irregularities and malpractices to light.

"With reference to the neglected state of the conservancy, I would merely draw attention to some of Dr. Banks' reports. He removed 14 tons of refuse from one privy in Harrison Road, and he reported that another privy in Burtola Street was full of night-soil, and choked by 50 old shoes. This proves that the Commissioners were perfectly justified in their reiterated complaint that the Health Officer and his supervising staff were not doing their duties, and that the Executive required a rude awakening and stricter interference from the Commissioners.

"Dr. Banks reported that some of the night-soil depôts were in bad repair, and that in one of them; the floor was completely broken up. This proves that the Executive failed in attending to what was urgently required for the purposes of sanitation.

"If, as Dr. Banks reported, the refuse-carts are so badly constructed that the bullocks and ponies are needlessly knocked about, the Executive alone can be considered at fault. If the surface drains are badly aligned, and if the Conservancy Department throw urine from cowsheds into drains, instead of emptying it into the sewers, the inevitable conclusion ought to be that the Executive are inefficient, unless it can be shown that the Commissioners prevented them from doing their duties.

"As regards the construction of insanitary buildings, it is an open secret that the Executive, instead of taking vigorous steps as soon as the construction of such a building is commenced, defer taking any action till it is too late. It is a fact that the Commissioners on several occasions ordered the demolition of houses, constructed in contravention of the existing building regulations. Is it not worth enquiring why the Resolutions of the Commissioners were not carried into effect? Only two explanations are possible. Either the building regulations are bad and unworkable, or the Executive are inefficient. If the Building Committee, in a few cases, permitted slight deviations from the bye-laws, and sanctioned plans, they dwindle into insignificance before the deviations taken no notice of, or permitted by the Executive.

"On the first alarm of the plague in Bombay reaching Calcutta, the Commissioners at once placed the sum of Rs. 3,000 at the disposal of their Health Officer for the adoption of precautionary measures against the plague—*vide* Proceedings of the 26th Meeting of the General Committee held on 25th September, 1896. At the same time, the Commissioners requested the Health Officer to pay

daily visits to different parts of the town instead of three visits in the week, and to issue strict orders to his subordinates to pay particular attention to the cleansing of the town. The Commissioners did more. In addition to this, they individually visited different parts of the town with the Acting Chairman to see how the work was going on. At their next meeting, held on the 28th September, 1896, the Health Officer asked for an allotment of Rs. 36,000 for six months and Rs. 6,000 for the cleansing of certain filthy parts of the town, and for the adoption of precautionary measures against the plague. The Commissioners immediately consented to vote a grant for the extra carts and coolies required, but declined to appoint any Medical Inspector or Chief Superintendent on Rs. 1,000 a month, since they contended that the Health Officer with his existing supervising staff ought to be able to do the work. Eventually, at a special meeting of the General Committee, held on the 5th October, 1896, the proposal of the Health Officer to entertain a certain number of additional Medical Inspectors was sanctioned, and it was decided to apply to Government for the services of an officer on a pay, not exceeding Rs. 1,000 a month, for three months, to superintend the cleansing of the town, and introduce a system of organisation, under which the town would get the fullest benefit of the amount spent on its conservancy, it being the general opinion that through the incompetency of the Executive in the Health Department, the Commissioners did not get sufficient work out of the men employed.

"Besides this, the Commissioners granted Rs. 1,000 for sewer flushing, Rs. 31,449 for the construction of flushing chambers in ward No. 2, and Rs. 1,221 for connecting the bathing platforms with the filtered water-supply, with a view to relieve the unfiltered water-supply for sewer flushing.

"The following passage is an extract from the letter of the Government of Bengal, dated 7th March, 1898:—'Although on the 30th November, the Medical Board addressed to the Corporation a number of specific recommendations for the cleansing of the city, it was not till the 22nd of January, and then under the strongest pressure from Government and the Medical Board, that they sanctioned a grant of Rs. 30,000 towards a further temporary establishment for cleaning up the town.' Nothing could be more unfair to the Commissioners than this. The Commissioners had long before this resolved on spending any reasonable amount of money for thoroughly cleaning up the town, and it was entirely due to the Executive that a definite scheme was not laid before the Commissioners until January, 1897.

"The Bengal Chamber of Commerce have a potent voice in the Corporation, if they only choose to exercise it. They have in their individual capacity a large property vote, and besides have the privilege of sending four representatives directly to the Municipal Board. The representations of the Chamber, whether made directly by them or through their representatives, have always received the respectful and prompt attention of the Commissioners.

"I would here take the liberty of quoting the opinion of a European gentleman who has sat on the Municipal Board ever since the present Act came into operation, as a representative of the Calcutta Trades Association:—'It is taken for granted that because we, European Commissioners, are in the minority that we can do nothing, and that in any attempt at reform, we are outvoted and sat upon by an overwhelming majority. This is not my experience; and I have been a Commissioner for seven years, and I can honestly say, and I feel it my duty to say, that in all my attempts at improvement in the special subject I have taken in hand, I have received the readiest assistance, and no opposition from the natives, but the difficulties I have been confronted with have always been from the Executive. Improvements have been initiated, passed without opposition, funds found and voted, and yet owing to the ineptitude of the Executive, nothing has been done.'

"The weakest part of the Bill is that it makes an indirect attempt to undermine the independence of the Corporation, and to reduce it to a non-entity. It deals almost a death-blow at local self-government. If self-government in Calcutta has failed, let it be abolished by all means. But while it lasts, its integrity and independence must be respected.

"Municipal self-government is an important political experiment in this country. Not many years ago, Her Majesty the Queen-Emress attached

particular significance to the successful development of this movement, on which depends the chance of any further extension of the representative system of government in this country. The success of the experiment is now an admitted fact. To use some of the words and arguments of a Bombay petition from the municipal body of that city, submitted to Government some years ago, 'such general success is compatible with occasional blunders and miscarriages.' Municipal Corporations in India have been established in pursuance of a policy which aims at fostering habits of self-government among the people of this country. Habits of self-government cannot be acquired or usefully exercised without freedom of action. The danger of a Municipality lies in its liability to too much interference of Government with its duties and responsibilities, however wholesome Government interference sometimes may be. Too much of such interference will deprive a Municipality of that independence, so essentially necessary to its successful working. Government should not be allowed to usurp the functions of Municipal bodies, except when they are proved to be wrong. This Bill is essentially opposed to the principle on which the Corporation is constituted. It is calculated to destroy the sense of trust and responsibility, reposed in the Commissioners. It will make the Corporation self-governing only in name. This Bill goes against some of the fundamental principles, enunciated in the Resolution of the Government of India on Local Self-government, dated the 10th October, 1881. Some of these principles are :—

'The Governor-General in Council has no hesitation in stating his conviction that the only reasonable plan, open to the Government, is to induce the people themselves to undertake as far as may be the management of their own affairs, and to develop and create, if need be, a capacity for self-help in respect of all matters that have for imperial reasons to be retained in the hands of the representatives of Government.

'The non-official members must be led to feel that real power is placed in their hands, and that they have real responsibilities to discharge. It is doubtful whether they have, under present arrangements, any sufficient inducement to give up their time and attention to the transaction of public business.'

"In giving his qualified assent to the existing Act, Lord Ripon, as Viceroy of India, said :—

'Having regard to the great importance, attaching to the development of municipal and other similar institutions in India, it appears to the Governor-General most desirable to avoid as far as possible taking any step which may have the appearance of arresting the growth of such institutions or of unduly restricting their liberty of action.'

"In another place he remarked :—

'It must be remembered that the introduction of municipal institutions into India is only of comparatively recent date, and that even in England, where such institutions are of long growth, and are consonant with the habits of the people, many instances might be adduced from the records of Town Councils and other local bodies not only in the past, but also in the present day, of proceedings little, if at all less, open to criticism than the most noticeable of the cases which have given ground for complaint in this country.'

"The fate not only of the Calcutta Corporation, but the development also of local self-government in this country, will depend very much upon what ultimately awaits this Bill. I have no hesitation in saying that the Bill is a direct menace to the existence and extension of local self-government in this country.

"In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, appended to the Bill, we are told that it is sought to attain the ends of the Bill by reconstructing the existing Act more or less on the lines of the Bombay Municipal Act with certain material changes, &c. But it is most curious that while the Bill copies some of the sections of the Bombay Act, more or less important, it eschews altogether some of the redeeming features in the Bombay Municipal system. It would have been a decided gain to our city if the constitution of the Calcutta Corporation had been assimilated somewhat to that of the Bombay Corporation. The Standing Committee of the Bombay Corporation, corresponding to the General

Committee of the Calcutta Corporation, has its own separate Chairman. It consists of 12 members, of whom 8 are appointed by the Corporation, and 4 by Government, the Chairman holding his office for a year only, and is elected by the members of the Committee. The Corporation has also its own separate Chairman, who also holds his office for a year, and is elected by the members of that body. The entire executive power and responsibility are vested, for a renewable term of three years, in the head of the Municipal Executive, who is known as the 'Municipal Commissioner of the City of Bombay.' He is entitled to be present at all the meetings of the Standing Committee and the Corporation, to take part in the discussions at those meetings, but he is not allowed to vote upon, or to move any Resolutions. The head of the Bombay Municipal Executive does not possess such uncontrolled authority as the Calcutta Municipal Chairman does. While the head of the Executive of the Bombay Municipality is not allowed to vote at any of its meetings, the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality is allowed a casting vote, and also to move any Resolution he likes. The system is wrong in principle, and leads to much abuse. The Bill gives no power to the Calcutta Commissioners to elect their own Chairman, either of the General Committee or of the Corporation itself, while the Chairman is allowed to be the Chairman of the Corporation as well as of the General Committee, and to be at the same time the head of the Executive. If the Calcutta Chairman, therefore, is not an autocrat, I do not know who is. And yet the Bill seeks to make him a greater autocrat still! A more dangerous state of things can hardly be conceived, and the worst of it is that while the 72 Commissioners, of whom 50 are elected, are allowed to remain untouched, they will be all dummies excepting the fortunate twelve within the charmed circle of the General Committee. The elective system will remain only in name, while everything will be done by the Municipal Chairman or rather Municipal autocrat, in the sacred name of that system! The General Committee will be a packed body altogether, for out of the 12 members, constituting the Committee, not 8, as in Bombay, but only 4 will be returned by the Corporation; and with the help of this packed body, the Chairman may at any time execute his sweet will and pleasure."

The Hon'ble Mr. TURNER said:—"On behalf of the body which I have the honour to represent, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, I beg to express my entire satisfaction at the introduction of the Bill now under discussion which aims at the improvement and partial re-construction of the municipal body as it now exists in Calcutta, and I congratulate the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill on the very able, clear and exhaustive statement which he made on the occasion of introducing the measure into this Council. The Chamber of Commerce has addressed the Government of Bengal on the shortcomings of the Calcutta Municipality at various times, notably in July, 1895, September, 1896, and January, 1897. In July, 1895, the Secretary of the Chamber had occasion to call the attention of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the increase of fever of a typhoidal character throughout the city and the insanitary construction of the city generally. The letter also referred to the possible danger of, and the very serious consequences which would follow from, the introduction of plague into Calcutta which at the time had appeared slightly at Singapore. Mr. Clarke, the then Secretary, went on to say: 'The Committee have reason to believe that there is a very strong feeling on the part of a section of the community that efforts should be put forth by those responsible for the health of the city to grapple with its insanitary evil, and I am to say that as the Municipal Commissioners have failed to do so, the Committee consider the time has arrived when the Government of Bengal should lend its influence and help to rectify the state of affairs I have alluded to.' The attention of Government was also drawn to the terrible state of the trenching ground to the south of the city at Goragacha in the midst of the populous suburbs of Alipore, and the Committee appealed to Government to take action under the controlling section of Act II of 1888.

"In 1896, the Committee of the Chamber had again occasion to call the attention of the Local Government to the necessity for taking special precautions to prevent the importation of plague into Calcutta, a misfortune which

the Committee considered was beyond the power or capacity of the Municipal Corporation to deal with.

"In January, 1897, the Secretary to the Chamber addressed a long communication to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department, dwelling earnestly on the very serious state of the city of Calcutta which was a source of danger and apprehension in the face of the plague existing in Bombay. The Committee referred to the report of the Medical Board, dated 28th October, 1896, on the sanitary condition of Calcutta, especially to the complaints of the bad working of the sewerage system of the city, the want of sufficient water for flushing drains, and the consequent tendency for the sewers to 'become elongated cess-pools.' The letter referred to the disgraceful condition in which certain portions of private houses were kept and the terrible state of insanitation which constituted a permanent and standing threat against the health of the inhabitants and the prosperity of the city. The Committee considered that the report called for more than the attention of the Municipal Commissioners, as the matter concerned not only the Government of Bengal, but the Supreme Government. They called upon the Government to consider the question of legislation for the improvement of the Municipal Act so as to make it more readily effective.

"As regards the question of the sanitation of Calcutta, I think it must be admitted by all parties that it is a matter which not merely concerns our Local or Imperial Government, but it is a matter of International importance. For some years past the attention of Foreign Powers has been directed towards the health of India. I remember some few years ago, when an outbreak of cholera occurred in Bombay, how certain Continental Powers at once took fright and issued stringent orders in regard to the quarantine of all vessels sailing from Bombay. The rules were strictly and rigidly enforced. After a time the former stringent restrictions against an ordinary epidemic, such as we look upon cholera in this country, were generally modified, but with the advent of plague to India, Foreign Powers have become more alive than ever to the necessity for watching carefully the sanitary condition of India as a whole. But as the Hon'ble Mr. Risley observed, Diplomacy and Science joined hands, and the famous Venice Convention of 1897 was an all-important result. Clear and absolute rules were drawn up in regard to the treatment of cargo and passengers arriving from infected ports. Disinfection and observation were substituted for quarantine, and the regulations agreed to were fair and reasonable. But a stricter watch than ever is kept on the sanitary condition of India, and it is therefore not only necessary, but the duty of Government to take such steps as will provide for an efficient and complete working of the municipal bodies in all Presidency towns. It is difficult, it is almost impossible, for us to realise what would be meant if plague appeared in Calcutta, and Foreign Powers blocked the importation of merchandise from Calcutta, Bombay and Kurrachee. It would mean that the foreign export trade of India would cease; disaster to the commercial classes would follow, and a financial crisis might have to be faced by the Government itself. Now I think it cannot be denied that in view of all this the commercial interest in Calcutta is not one to be disregarded. Further, I would remark that total value of imports into Calcutta amounts to no less than 38 crores per annum and our exports to 51 crores, so that the commercial class has surely a great and reasonable claim upon Government to have its representations considered, and also to have a reasonable share in the management of municipal matters in this great city.

"It has been urged in some of the Anglo-Vernacular papers that the present constitution of the municipality is a complete popular representation that enormously good work has been done in the past, multifarious improvements have taken place in the city by the construction of new roads, the opening of congested areas and bustee reclamations; and one particular journal goes on to say: 'the Commissioners are elected representatives of the people, who do their work from a sense of pure public spirit. But the head of the Government is not on their side, nor are the members of the Anglo-Indian community. And do you know what are the Commissioners for? It is to keep

the Europeans in comfort and luxury at the cost of the general body of rate-payers. They, the Europeans, must have more water, more gas, wider and cleaner streets and better conservancy, all at the cost of the Indian tax-payer. In short, the Commissioners exist not to do duty to their constituents, but to pander to the convenience of the European community.' Now, Sir, if an educated journalist can write in this unfair and absurd manner of matters which vitally affect the city and the country at large, is it possible for us to convince him or his friends of the necessity for absolutely perfect sanitation and for improvements which no human being of ordinary intelligence can deny are sadly and urgently needed? It must be known that the supply of pure and filtered water is an enormous benefit to the people at large. It must be admitted that wider and cleaner streets and better conservancy must improve the health of the very humblest of the citizens of Calcutta. Europeans as a rule can get away from the dangers of insanitary Calcutta, but the poor people are obliged to remain and to suffer in silence from I will not say the incapacity but the indifference of their fellow-citizens, who comprise the majority of the Municipal Commissioners.

"Now I quite admit that some good work has been done in the past few years, although on some occasions it has taken years instead of months to work out matters of vital importance. I understand the drainage works which were commenced some two years ago were for seven years under consideration. Now I will undertake to say that had this matter been in the hands of a compact body of picked men, such as I hope and expect the new Standing Committee will be, this matter of drainage, a matter of supreme importance, would have been decided upon and completed in as many months as it took years under the present system. As regards the shortcomings of the Municipality, I am bound to say that I do not think they fully appreciate the intense necessity for sanitary improvement. I do not blame the Municipal Commissioners entirely for the result, rightly described as the appalling disclosures of the Medical Board enquiries in 1896. The Executive seem to have been partially responsible, but it must be remembered that the Executive were trained to consider each Commissioner as his master, and how can any man serve 75 masters? Then, too, it has been most unfortunate that in the past three years we have had as many Chairmen of the Municipality. Constant changes of heads of a department are disastrous, and I am strongly in favour of having the appointment of Chairman made a permanent one. This will mean either that the salary of the post must be made sufficiently high to retain the services of a Civilian with brilliant prospects before him, or Government must go outside the Civil Service for their selection. This is a matter which I would ask Government to seriously consider. But apart from this consideration, it must be allowed that at times the Municipal Commissioners have proved seriously obstructive and have opposed various improvements for reasons which are inexplicable. I would refer, for instance, to the Harrison Road scheme, which has opened up one of the most congested localities in Calcutta. It was in 1888 vigorously opposed by all the Hindu Commissioners with the exception of six. Eventually, the scheme was carried through by the European and Muhammadan Commissioners *plus* six Hindu representatives supporting the Chairman, and in connection with this Harrison Road improvement, I would read the following extract from the closing remarks on the debate by the Chairman, the late Sir Henry Harrison:—

'The question lay between Calcutta as a whole and the land-holders. Who should reap the profits earned from an important and costly improvement like this—private owners or the rate-payers in general? Those were the two conflicting bodies. On the one side was the whole of Calcutta which would be taxed to pay for this road: on the other side were the land-holders. What was the value of land before Calcutta became a city? Probably from Rs. 50 to Rs. 200 a bigha, and what now was the value of that land? From Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 40,000 per bigha was not at all an exaggerated estimate. The value of land was increased two hundredfold by the trade and commerce of Calcutta. And now, when the municipality was unable to make a road, except on a principle of this kind, and they would give the whole increased value of the land, and also 15 per cent. in addition, the land-holders turned round and said that private rights must for ever be respected, notwithstanding that the most important streets of the town remained hopelessly clogged. That showed their absolute failure to realize what were the rights of the city, as compared with the rights of individuals. And it was because that was the very view taken by every capitalist that they were the very persons who failed to appreciate what was the meaning of the life of a

city, that what Mr. Cotton said acquired such immense importance. Was it possible to entrust the lives and health of the people to a body of Commissioners, whoever they might be, who so little appreciated the enormous and transcendent importance of making improvements of this kind.'

"Again in 1896, when the Health Officer's proposal for increased expenditure to provide for precautions against the plague was under discussion, Maulvi Abdul Jubbur declared that 'pestilence and famine were a divine chastisement for our sins and like the Excise Revenue in Bengal are yearly on the increase and keep pace with the advancement of what you call civilization. No human agency can fight against a decree of heaven.' On the same occasion another gentleman, who, I believe, has been educated at Oxford, also opposed the proposal and said 'though there might be overcrowding among natives, and though they might live in insanitary conditions, their fathers and grandfathers had lived in the same way and under very much more insanitary conditions and had attained great age.' These quotations go to show that some at any rate of our present Municipal Commissioners entirely fail to appreciate the absolute necessity of keeping pace with modern requirements in matters sanitary or the gravity of questions brought up for their consideration.

"Now as regards the Bill itself, it has been objected that too much independent power will be given to the Executive, and that the Municipality will be too much in the hands of Government. Section 22 which empowers Government to step in and act on certain occasions, expressly stipulates that such action will be taken only if the Municipal Commissioners neglect their duties, and if the Corporation fail to comply with the orders which may be given after due enquiry has been made by a Commissioner or by a special officer deputed for the occasion. As to the question of Government interference, generally we overlook the fact that in cases of breakdowns at important crisis, the Government of India look to the Local Government and not to the Corporation. The eyes of the world in fact are fastened on the Government and not on a municipal body in case of shortcomings.

"Now in England where municipal bodies exist, I suppose in almost every town it is not an uncommon occurrence for the Local Government Board to interfere in questions where Municipal Board are unable or unwilling to carry out urgent necessary improvements. I may quote the Thames Valley drainage works. At one time the sewage from most of the riverine towns on the banks of the Thames was discharged into the river, this was always an objectionable feature, and at length they, the Conservators of the river Thames took action and obtained an injunction against the practice. After considerable delay the Local Government Board stepped in and insisted on the river drainage works being effected, failing which the town to which I refer was to be heavily penalised. Action was ultimately taken, and the sewage disposed of by a chemical process. The Local Government Board also, I believe, goes to the length of insisting upon loans being raised to carry out necessary works, so that in taking action to put the Calcutta Municipality in order the Government of Bengal merely follow the practice adopted in England.

"Then again it has been said that this is a serious interference with Local Self-Government and the declaration of Lord Ripon in 1882. In this connection I would like to read an extract from a speech made by His Excellency the Marquis of Ripon on the 8th November, 1882, when he addressed the Municipality of Lahore. While deprecating any attempt to drive those who are to manage local institutions too hard and fast, he went on to say that:—

"Though I desire to see great patience exercised, and though I deprecate haste or undue and overeager expectations of immediate results, I, on the other hand, am firmly determined that this experiment shall not fail through the pertinacious neglect, through the sloth or through the continued incompetence of the local bodies that are about to spring up. Not to do so would be to betray the policy which we are advocating and to abandon those interests that we have most near at heart. We must, therefore, retain sufficient control over these local bodies, a control varying in different parts of the country according to the advancement of the people and the circumstances of each district. We must maintain, I say, sufficient control over those local bodies to see that they do not permanently, obstinately or slothfully neglect their duty towards their fellow-citizens and that control, Gentlemen, I, for my part am determined to maintain, and I trust that it will be applied patiently, but still firmly, by Local Governments.'

"But I contend that it is no interference with the principle of self-government at all, nor can it be described as a retrograde measure when a representa-

tion of all sections of the community is more fully and equally ensured than under the old system. The essence of Local Self-Government is, I take it, the fair representation of all classes. I cannot imagine that it was ever intended that one section of the community or one class of that section should be the predominant power and in fact control the working of the Municipality. This is the case under the present *regime*, and it is a state of things which most decidedly justifies Government in its present legislation. I have no doubt it will be said that Europeans will take no more interest in municipal matters than of old, but I absolutely deny this. As regards the Chamber of Commerce, even though some of the leading members may have their time too fully occupied to attempt to take up municipal matters, there are many men of excellent business qualifications fully equal to the task of assisting in the administration of the municipal conduct of the city, who are, I believe, sufficiently public spirited to give up some of their time when they see that the General Committee is really a workable and businesslike body, and that time will not be wasted in fruitless discussions.

"It appears to be taken for granted that the Members of the Chamber are so indifferent to the municipal administration of the city that they tacitly consent to being represented by native members. At one time, however, when the 1889 Act came into force the Chamber was represented by European members, and for many years these gentlemen were regular attendants at the meetings of the Corporation, but each in turn withdrew in disgust after finding out that the meetings were an utter waste of time and that the native majority swamped their proposals and obstructed their reforms.

"So, too, Europeans will no longer stand for the wards in the European quarter of the town, because they find that they are of no use to their constituents against the overwhelming majority of opposition to reform.

"Once the new system has been inaugurated and is in fair working order, there will be no lack of Europeans quite ready to come forward as of old to represent the various interests of the wards in which the Europeans chiefly reside.

"As regards the new laws and regulations relating to the buildings and streets of Calcutta, I have not had time to examine them in detail, but I think there can be no disputing the fact that our first requirement is enlargement of a number of the main thoroughfares, especially those leading through the native town and that these main thoroughfares should be intersected by streets running at right angles, so that the town itself, should as it were be split up into a number of squares. I would also urge for the provision of open spaces, not on behalf of the Europeans (as some of my native friends might think), but on behalf of the poor, especially the children, who, under present circumstances, seem to take their enjoyment by playing over the open drains of the streets and bustees. There is no doubt that Calcutta is extending rapidly towards Alipore and Ballygunge and care should be taken that *maidans* be preserved for the use of the public. If necessary, they should be acquired by Government under the Land Acquisition Act, and so provision be made for open air space, which like the *maidan* of Calcutta, will prove the lungs of the district in which they are situated.

"On behalf of the mercantile community, I would tender to you, Sir, our grateful thanks for having grappled with the great and important question of municipal reform and the improved sanitation of Calcutta. You have done so at the risk of losing a certain amount of popularity with a section of the community, but your sense of duty and responsibility has overcome all sentimental feelings, and you have now, as you have always done, acted fearlessly and uprightly regardless of possible censure from those who disagreed with your convictions, and happy in the feeling that you are doing the greatest good for the greatest number."

The debate was adjourned to Monday, the 4th instant.

F. G. WIGLEY,

Offg. Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Department.

CALCUTTA;
The 19th April, 1898.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 18th April 1898.

Burdwan.—Rainfall at Sadar nil, Kalna nil, Katwa '08, Raniganj '09. Weather seasonable. Rain wanted for ploughing. Paddy lands being manured. Sowing of *aus* paddy has commenced in the Kalna subdivision. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	13 to 16	} per rupee.
Kalna	...	...	...	13 to 13 $\frac{1}{8}$
Katwa	...	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14
Raniganj	...	...	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$

Birbhum.—Rainfall at Sadar '63, Rampur Hât nil. Weather hot and cloudy. Rain has done good to standing crops. Manuring is going on. Prices stationary. Fodder sufficient.

Bankura.—Rainfall at Bankura '15, Vishnupur '26. Weather hot and occasionally cloudy. A little rain on the 16th. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease. Common rice sells at 15 seers a rupee at Sadar and Vishnupur.

Midnapore.—Rainfall at Sadar '46, Tamluk '02, Ghatal 1'15. Prospects of *boro* paddy, indigo and *til* good. Common rice sells as follows:—

					Srs.	
Sadar	13	} per rupee.
Contai	...	...	...	...	16
Tamluk	...	...	...	...	12
Ghatal	...	...	...	...	13

Hooghly.—Rainfall at Sadar nil, Serampore '41. Rain wanted for tillage. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Howrah.—Rainfall at Sadar '24, Uluberia '60. Weather cool and cloudy with strong south-easterly wind. Harvesting of *boro* paddy at Uluberia has commenced. The recent rain has facilitated ploughing of lands. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall at Sadar '89, Barasat 1'05, Diamond Harbour '02. Weather hot and cloudy. No crops on the ground. Rain is badly wanted for tillage of lands at Diamond Harbour. Several cases of cattle-disease reported from thana Mathurapur. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	10 to 13	} per rupee.
Barasat	...	...	...	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Basirhat	...	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Diamond Harbour	...	...	...	13

Nadia.—Rainfall at Sadar '01, Kushtia '70, Meherpur '03, Chuadanga '03, Ranaghat '86. The recent rain at Kushtia and Ranaghat has much facilitated ploughing and done good to sugarcane. Common rice selling from 10 seers to 13 seers 14 chittacks per rupee. Fodder sufficient. Water scarce in parts. No cattle-disease.

Murshidabad.—No rain up to 16th. Weather hot. Harvesting of *rabi* crops finished. Prospects of indigo and mulberry favourable. Fodder sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	...	...	...	13	} per rupee.
Jangipur	...	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Kandi	...	...	...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Jessore.—Rainfall at Sadar '81, Jhenida 1'07, Narail '19, Bangaon '61. Weather hot and cloudy with occasional showers. The recent rainfall has been beneficial to cultivation. More rain wanted. No report of cattle-disease. Fodder sufficient, but water reported to be somewhat scarce in the Jhenida and Narail subdivisions. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	12 to 13	} per rupee.
Jhenida	...	...	...	11
Narail	...	...	...	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bangaon	...	...	...	12 to 14

Khulna.—Rainfall at Sadar ·26, Bagerhat ·19, Satkhira nil. Weather hot. Rain has done some good to *boro* paddy and *til*. *Aus* cultivation going on. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells as follows :—

				Srs.	
Sadar	...	...	...	...	11 to 14
Satkhira	...	...	...	...	11½
Bagerhat	...	...	...	...	13
					} per rupee.

Rajshahi.—Rainfall at Sadar ·86, Nator ·43, Naugaon nil. Rain has done good. More rain wanted. Prospects of crops good. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water plentiful. Rice sells from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Average rainfall ·28. Weather seasonable. Sowing of *bhadoi* paddy, jute, and sugarcane commencing. Condition of cattle good. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·22, Alipur Duars ·65. Weather hot and cloudy. Lands are being prepared for *bhadoi* and jute. Sowing of *bhadoi* going on. More rain wanted. No want of fodder and drinking-water. Common rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Darjeeling.—Rainfall at Darjeeling ·34, Kurseong 1·6, Siliguri 3·35. Weather seasonable. *Hills*—Bhutta, potato, *kangni* and *chhotta marua* progressing. *Terai*—*Bhadoi*, jute, and sugarcane being planted. Coarse rice sells :—

Hills— 9 to 11 seers per rupee.

Terai—13 to 15 „ „ „

Bhutta sells from 17 to 28 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—Rainfall at Sadar ·51, Nilphamari 1·17, Gaibanda ·23, Kurigram ·71. Ploughing for jute and sowing of *aus* continue. Weeding of *aus* going on. Prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. Good drinking-water reported scarce in places in Gaibanda.

Bogra.—Rainfall at Bogra ·20, Sherpur ·82, Naukhila 1·15. Lands being prepared for jute and *aus*. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling from 12 to 14½ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·32, Sirajganj 1·50. Weather cool, cloudy and rainy. Prospects of crops good. Price of common rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee. Some cattle-disease.

Dacca.—Rainfall at Sadar ·69, Manikganj ·79, Munshiganj ·67, Narainganj ·62. Weather hot and cloudy. The recent rain has done good to standing crops. Ploughing for *aus* and jute proceeding. Fodder available. No cattle-disease. Want of good drinking-water in interior. Price of common rice 11 to 12 seers per rupee.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall at Sadar ·71, Jamalpur ·60, Netrokona 1·65, Tangail ·78, Kishorganj ·75. Weather cloudy and moderately cool. The recent rain has done good to the *boro* crop. Sowing of jute and *aus* paddy commenced. Common rice from 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Faridpur.—Rainfall at Sadar ·42, Goalundo ·37, Madaripur ·50. Weather seasonable. Cultivation for *aman*, *aus* and jute has now started. Rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Backergunge.—Rainfall 5·08. Weather vernal. Rain has done good to crops. Common rice sells from 9 to 14 seers per rupee.

Tippera.—Rainfall at Sadar ·61, Bramanberia ·33, Chhandpur 1·23. Weather generally cloudy. Heavy rain wanted to facilitate sowing. Fodder sufficient. Price of rice from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—Rainfall at Sadar 2·54. Feni ·52. Ploughing continues. Prospects improved. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water available. Price of rice 10 to 14 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—Rainfall 1·00. Weather hot. *Rabi* harvesting nearly over. Outturn below the average. Drinking-water scarce in the wave-swept area. Rice selling at 12 seers per rupee.

Patna.—Threshing and winnowing of *rabi* crops going on. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Prices almost stationary. In Patna common rice (new) selling at 16 seers per rupee. Fodder and water for cattle sufficient.

Gaya.—Rainfall ·10. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice sells at 13½ seers, barley 22 seers, wheat 13 seers, gram 17½ seers, and *arhar* 21 seers per rupee.